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Piano teacher cleared of killing husband's aunt after retrial


Bowler: "It's unbelievable"

BY JOANNA BALE AND FRANCES GIBB

AN elderly widowed piano teacher jailed for life for the murder of her husband's aunt was cleared by an Old Bailey jury yesterday after a four-year campaign to prove her innocence.

As the jury delivered its unanimous not guilty verdict on Sheila Bowler, 68, the packed public gallery erupted with loud cheers from family and friends who had mounted the campaign.

In the dock Mrs Bowler, who has served over four years of a 12-year sentence after being convicted of of pushing the 89-year-old woman, known to her as "Aunt Flo", into a river, wiped tears from her eyes as the judge, Mr Justice Wright, threatened contempt of court orders for further outbursts.

Told she was free to go, Mrs Bowler stepped down and was greeted with a hug by her d daughter Jane, 28, who has spent every day in court for the three-week retrial.

Moments later, looking remarkably composed, the immaculately dressed widow sat calmly in the public restaurant of the Old Bailey, reliving her ordeal. "I feel stunned. It's unbelievable and I never thought it was going to happen. I know that if I had gone back to prison I would have spent the rest of my life in there."

The case had all the ingredients of a classic Agatha Christie story: it involved a respectable woman and a pillar of the community, and split the small-town East Sussex communities of Rye, where Mrs Bowler taught piano at three local schools, and of Winchelsea, where Florence Jackson was found drowned in the River Brede in 1992.

Now Mrs Bowler, who is returning to her home, wants to become a prison visitor as well as teaching music to dyslexic students. "I would like to become a prison visitor, having had some experience of prison life," she said.

She is not bitter over the time spent in prison to her release last July when the Court of Appeal ordered a retrial. "I feel very angry that I could be convicted for a crime that I haven't committed. Even now I don't have much faith in the justice system any more."

Mrs Bowler was accused of pushing Mrs Jackson into the river after collecting her from the old people's home where she lived. She told police that she left Mrs Jackson alone in the car when she realised a tyre was partly deflated but when she returned 30 minutes later the car was empty. Next morning her body was found in the river.

The crown had argued Mrs Bowler was "cold and calculating" and had a financial motive. But the possibility that Mrs Jackon might have been able to walk to the river, a key part of the defence at her retrial, was never put to the original jury.

Throughout her time in jail Mrs Bowler was sustained by hundreds of letters and the work of campaigners led by Angela and Tim Devlin, son of the late Lord Devlin, other friends and family and the Channel 4 programme *Trial and Error*.

Tim Devlin said last night: "Her nightmare is over — it's absolutely wonderful news. She has been vindicated. But all this should never have happened."

Before the jury delivered its verdict at 2pm yesterday, after six hours of deliberation, she said she had felt more frightened than the first time because she knew "how easy it is to get convicted".

Mystery unravels, page 5

'United in the face of tyranny'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND PETER RIDDELL IN WASHINGTON

TONY BLAIR gave President Clinton his wholehearted personal endorsement as a leader and a friend yesterday when he promised Britain's full backing for any military strike against Iraq, applauded the President's political achievements, and brushed aside the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal.

Mr Clinton, in turn, predicted that Britain and America could blazon a path for the world, and congratulated Mr Blair on the "exhilarating challenge" he had issued to his "proud nation".

The two leaders were standing side by side in the White House foyer at the start of the Prime Minister's three-day visit to Washington, where the prospect of action against Iraq was dominating the agenda.

Mr Blair reaffirmed Britain's support for America's tough stand, and told his host: "We have stood together before in the face of tyranny. It's important, not out of machismo or a test of international virility, but in the interest of long term world peace that Saddam Hussein is made to back down. We've got to recognise, in the light of our experience with Saddam Hussein, that diplomacy simply won't work unless it's backed up by the threat of force or indeed the use of force."

As he spoke, Congress was drafting a resolution supporting air strikes if necessary. The Administration has rejected an appeal by the International Olympic Committee to delay any action until after the Winter Olympics, which start in Nagano, Japan, today. The White House said it "acknowledged the importance of the Olympic tradition", but that Iraqis "should not breathe easily" during the 16-day games.

Mr Blair described as highly speculative reports that February 17 had been chosen as the day for attack, although aides said that the Government wanted two or three weeks to "educate the public" about the need for action and give diplomacy a chance.

Besides repeating their determination to force Iraq to admit the United Nations weapons inspection team, the two leaders were at pains to emphasise how much they had in common on social and domestic political issues. Mr Blair directly compared new Labour to the Clinton Administration and declared: "We are in politics for the same thing." Their main shared aim was "a better standard of living for what you call middle America, and I call middle Britain — the majority of hard-working decent people who play by the rules."

In his welcoming remarks, the President had also reinforced the impression of a common cause, saying: "These are good times for the people of the US and Great Britain. In both our nations a vibrant new economy is growing, rooted in new ideas, new technology, new scientific breakthroughs, changing the way we live. In this new era, a new Britain and a new America, true to our oldest and most cherished values, can blazon a path for the world."

Neither leader mentioned the allegations that Mr Clinton had an affair with a 21-year-old former White House trainee and, in a breakfast television interview, Mr Blair sidestepped a question linking moral rectitude and political leadership. "You've just got to have some sense of balance and perspective about the issues that really matter to people," he said. "You have a president who is doing a superb job, who has huge respect and standing on the international stage. To me, that is what counts."

The Prime Minister will today be at Mr Clinton's side as the President faces his first news conference since the Monica Lewinsky allegations surfaced. But Mr Blair denied that he would be a "human shield" for the President: "I would have thought at a point in time in which we are poised possibly, if diplomatic avenues fail, to take military action against Iraq, I would have just thought, possibly, people would want to ask us about that."

Arabs released, page 13
John Lloyd, page 20
Leading article, page 21

MARK WILSON/Reuters


Welcomed with open arms: Hillary Clinton greeting Cherie Blair at the White House where their husbands reaffirmed their political and personal affinity

Boys cleared of sex assault

Three primary schoolboys were cleared of indecent assaulting a nine-year-old classmate in the lavatories at their West London school. A jury took two-and-a-half hours to accept the defence argument that the incident amounted to sexual inquisitiveness. Page 3

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Attack on 'dumbing' of BBC

FROM PETER RIDDELL IN WASHINGTON

THE BBC was last night denounced as a "down-market, dumbed down, overstaffed and bureaucratic organisation" by the Prime Minister's official press spokesman in an attack on the British media's alleged obsession with the personal lives of politicians.

The criticisms came as Tony Blair and his official spokesman sought to deflect attention from stories both about the break-up of Robin Cook's marriage and about Monica Lewinsky's relationship with President Clinton.

The spokesman criticised the BBC for continuing to highlight stories about Mr Cook's personal life.

He added that the BBC had decided to make the Lewinsky affair "the story" of Mr Blair's visit to Washington this week. Newspapers were also criticised for their interest in the personal lives of politicians.

Earlier, Mr Blair had argued that "people are going to have to make a choice in the end as to whether they are going to allow difficulties in someone's personal life to just intrude on things that in the end are the things they were elected to achieve".

Lord Chancellor angers Labour with privacy gaffe

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, JAMES LANDALE AND PETER RIDDELL

LORD IRVINE of Lairg was out on a limb last night after his suggested new privacy rules that could block disclosures about politicians' private lives were rejected by ministers and Downing Street.

Labour and Tory politicians and the press watchdog slapped down the Lord Chancellor's proposals for a system that would allow people to go to the Press Complaints Commission and ask for stories apparently breaching their privacy to be suppressed. Lord Wakeham, commission chairman, said it would amount to censorship and it would not be a system that he "as a democrat" would want to run.

Lord Irvine angered the Labour hierarchy by raising the issue in a way that allowed the controversy over Robin Cook and his mistress Gaynor Regan to be revived and which allowed the Tories to suggest that the Government was trying to protect politicians fom scrutiny by the press.

In an interview, Lord Irvine said that if the commission had had the power of "prior restraint", it would have been able to prevent the report of Mr Cook's affair being published.

Appalled party managers spent the day trying to limit the damage. One said of Lord Irvine: "He has messed up. He has picked the worst possible example and the worst possible time."

Downing Street rebutted the idea swiftly, making plain that neither Mr Cook nor any other minister had suggested that the stories about him should not have been printed.

The proposal itself looked dead in the water. Downing Street officials in London and travelling with Mr Blair in Washington said that there was no desire for a privacy law by the front or the back door. Influential ministers said that the proposal was not expected to proceed.

Lord Wakeham said that prior restraint would cast his commission in the role of censor, deciding what information the public should and should not have. "Press censorship of this sort is unacceptable in a democratic society. It is certainly not a power that the newspaper industry will ever give to the [commission], rightly in my view."

In a letter to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, he said that such a system could be used only by public figures who had prior information of an investigation relating to them, just the sort of people it was the duty of the press to scrutinise in the public interest. "Prior restraint would inevitably be used by those with something to hide, that they wanted to cover up. It would be of no practical use to ordinary people and it is a device which the public should look upon only with scepticism." In a technological age, such a proposal was "bluntly impractical and out of date, as well as undesirable".

Lord Irvine himself emphasised through his office that no decisions had been made. A spokesman said that freedom of the press had to be paramount.

But, speaking in the Lords last night, he again told the press that tighter self-regulation would be its best defence

Continued on page 2, col 5



"Guess all about it!"

Irvine's image, page 8
Media Times, page 46

TV jungle film wiped at airport

BY JASON NISSE AND CLAIRE COZENS

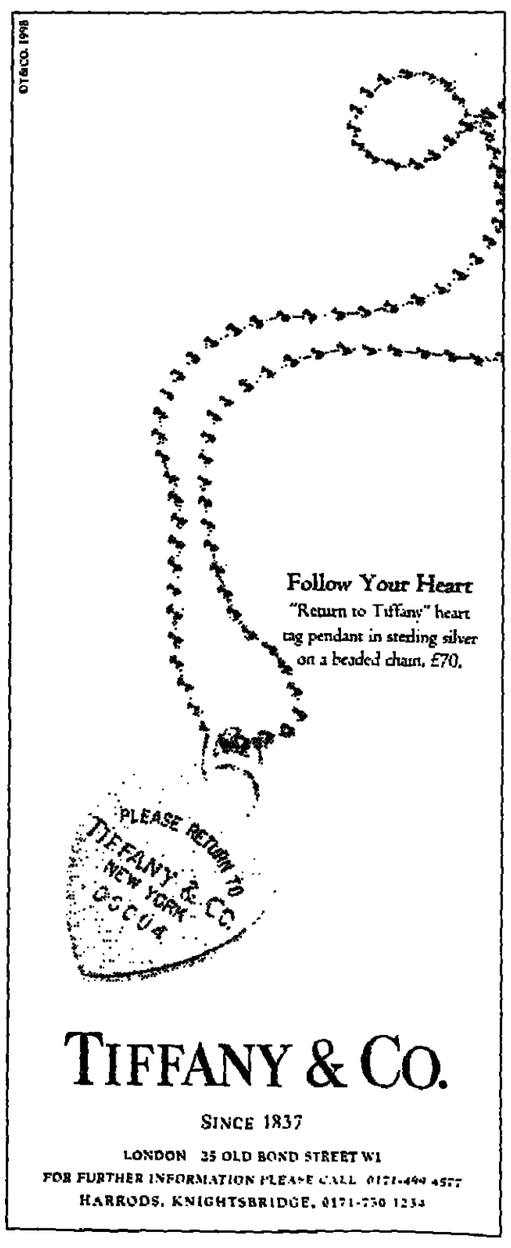
FIVE weeks sweat and toil for David Attenborough's television crew filming part of *The Life of Birds* in the jungle of Papua New Guinea has been rendered useless by an airport security system.

Their film was among luggage checked into the hold, but it was damaged by x-rays as it left Manchester Airport.

The damage caused by the £600,000 scanner, also in operation at Heathrow, has angered the BBC so much that it is considering legal action. Phil Hurrell, the assistant producer, said: "I don't want to get blown up, but there should be a warning about the possible damage to your film."

In-vision Technologies of California, the manfacturers, say the CTX 5000 is the only scanner which can detect explosives. "Our machines will stop a disaster," said a company official. "It is up to airports to warn people about damage to film."

The airports say that they were not aware of any damage to film. A combined test by British Airports Authority, Kodak and the Transport Department in 1993 showed that there was little risk of unexposed films being harmed. However, the CTX 5000 was not included.



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To describe Irvine, only the p-word will do

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

LORD Irvine of Lairg fiddled with his wig. He was bored. "There was this old lady," Lord Stoddart of Swindon told the House, "who asked at her local shop for a pound of potatoes. And the shopkeeper said, 'They're *kilos*, now, madam.' 'Very well, then,' she said, 'I'll have a pound of kilos.' "

The rumble and titter of what passes for laughter among titled persons ricocheted around the gilded chamber. You get it all, over in their lordships' House: jokes, anecdotes, a philosophy lesson, a thundering sermon . . .

And Lord Irvine of Lairg. He sat, later yesterday evening, upon the Woolsack, studying his nails. Brushing aside the tails of his wig for a better view, his lordship tried spreading his fingers out, palm facing away, to examine the ends of each finger, and the overall picture.

Then he turned each hand over and leant a little forward to observe each palm, half-clenched, the fingers curled over to display the nails side by side.

He seemed to approve. From time to time he would look up (the Earl Russell was in the middle of a rather brilliant, offbeat speech about the history of religious exemptions), but finding the other people's speeches less interesting than his nails, would resume the inspection.

Is the Pope Catholic? Is Lord Irvine pompous? How shall we describe the Lord Chancellor without being unoriginal?

Sketchwriters hate the obvious, but if you want a word picture of Sir Cyril Smith and rule out "fat", you will struggle. In a thumbnail sketch of William Hague, how do you avoid the word "bald"? What was Tom Thumb, if not small? Pinnochio, if not a liar?

And ransack the thesaurus though you will, no expression better captures the essential Irvine than pompous.

After Lord Russell had sat down and a couple more peers had earnestly tried to explain their doubts (the subject was the application of the Human Rights Bill to religious institutions), the Lord Chancellor himself spoke.

Again, I tried to avoid that word. But spend just a moment listening to the bewigged oracle, and "pompous" leaps at you from behind every bush. Probably witnesses have been applying the description to Lord Irvine since he first threw his rattle out of his pram (probably it was *in* his pram that the infant Derry first began insisting on the full-bottomed wig), but there is just no avoiding the word. Eventually even the doughtiest sketchwriter stops trying to dodge this overused adjective, sighs, and writes it down. POMPOUS. POMPOUS. POMPOUS.

As Lord Irvine warbles and stammers relentlessly on in that faintly sneering tone — a creature of exasperated rationality, confronted by a pack of half-wits — you begin to doodle. *Puffed-up. Inflated. Swelling. Arrogant. Lofty. High-falutin'. Grand* . . .

And yet, if you listen and follow his argument, you have to add to these words another one: *clever*. The intellect is unmistakable. This is the tone and manner of a very superior mind, obstinately unwilling to consider wherein it might be mistaken. No speaker in their lordships' House so unfailingly conveys the subliminal message that it's all terribly obvious, he is immensely clever, and the rest of us are just appallingly dim.

I do not know if Lord Irvine has ever asked for a pound of potatoes and been told that it's kilos now. But if any shopkeeper were so foolish, he would have his reply double-quick: "So give me 0.4536 kilograms of potatoes." Lord Irvine could think that up in less time than it takes to examine a fingernail.

Irvine's image, page 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Citizenship rules for security service eased

Prospective employees of MI5, M16 and GCHQ will no longer need to have one parent who is a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen under a relaxation of rules announced by the Government yesterday. The Foreign Secretary told MPs that anyone applying to join the intelligence service or the GCHQ listening post at Cheltenham would be required to have one parent who was a British citizen or has substantial family ties with the UK.

Robin Cook said in a written Commons reply that an applicant would have to be a British citizen: "It will, however, continue to be the case that the circumstances of each applicant are examined in detail as part of the security vetting process in order to assess risks."

Legal aid blunders rise

The Lord Chancellor comes under fire today over the high level of errors made when courts grant criminal legal aid, now totalling £544 million a year. The cost fails to win the approval of the National Audit Office for the *sixth* year running. Its report on the Lord Chancellor's Department found mistakes in at least half the cases where people were being assessed for aid, up from 34 to 36 per cent in 1995-96.

Desk jobs for disabled

Medical tests for benefits for the long-term sick are to be changed so that more disabled people can take up office jobs or part-time work. David Blunkett, the Employment Secretary, *told an audience in Cardiff that tests should* "judge what people can do and not what they can't do". Officials said he was referring to changes to assessments for incapacity benefit, paid to 1.78 million people.

Londoners pay dear

London has risen to tenth in the league table of the world's most expensive cities in which to live. A combination of a strong pound and a robust economy has pushed London up from twenty-eighth last year, according to the Economic Intelligence Unit's annual global survey. Tokyo and Osaka once again top the survey of 121 cities. Tehran is at the bottom with Tripoli and Bombay almost as cheap.

Bullen 'fourth choice'

Three Foreign Office officials were turned down for the post of diary secretary by Lord Hurd, former Foreign Secretary, before he appointed Anne Bullen, according to correspondence released by the Foreign Office trade unions. The corrrespondence confirms for the first time the bitterness among Foreign Office staff about Miss Bullen's appointment in November 1993.

Attack victim paralysed

A Czech student attacked on a London commuter train has been left dumb and paralysed. Police said the 19-year-old woman has no memory of the assault on the Hastings to Charing Cross train last month. It could be six months before she begins to recall events. Her family is arranging to fly her home by air ambulance. Her condition is "very poorly" and she can communicate only by blinking.

Museum grant warning

Galleries will be forced to close, scholarship will dwindle and our greatest treasures will increasingly go abroad unless public funding levels increase, the director of the Victoria & Albert Museum has warned. Alan Borg, who has seen the grant at his museum cut by £3 million this year, said: "We are losing all those things museum are about. We are losing experts as we can't afford to pay them."

Eye opener on the Net

The satirical magazine *Private Eye* launched a new animated Internet site yesterday. Its Web site will include interactive Yobs, animated Bores and plenty of electronic Colemanballs. The site will go live today in association with the online network MSN. *Private Eye*'s existing Web site will continue to operate. The new site will be available at http://msn.co.uk

Media, pages 44-46

Secret hunt for Blair's elite band of interns

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR is following the tradition of British spymasters in recruiting the brightest and most trusted graduates to join the first work experience programme at No 10.

He has authorised a secret trawl of a small number of universities to identify potential high-fliers who would benefit from a six-month stint at Downing Street. It is understood that just four or five universities are in the net — with Cambridge, breeding-ground for the notorious Philby, Burgess and Maclean spy ring, off the list.

After President Clinton's recent problems over Monica Lewinsky, a former White House intern, senior officials at Downing Street are determined to select only the very best graduates on the personal recommendation of tutors.

A Downing Street spokesman confirmed that the trawl for the "Downing Street interns" was limited. Personal applications to the Prime Minister or No 10 staff would not be considered.

"We can trust the universities to choose students with the right character and highest integrity who would be appropriate people to work here," the spokesman said. "If we advertised for such posts we would have sacks of applications and would need a huge bureaucracy which would make the scheme too expensive to run."

The list is believed to include Oxford, one or two London colleges, Leeds and Durham, the university closest to Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency.

Three graduates have already started work at No 10, answering telephones, photocopying and filing. Mr Blair had a similar scheme while Opposition leader. He found the graduates useful and believed that the experience gave them greater confidence and an insight into politics and government.

Potential recruits have been approached confidentially by senior academics and told that they must keep silent. One student at a metropolitan university said that he had received an enigmatic message from his professor to contact him urgently. "I was told that I had the chance to be nominated to work for the Blairs at Downing Street. When my friends asked what it was all about I had to be very vague, and they are convinced I am about to join MI5."

The interns receive only a travel and a lunch allowance. The student said he would have to take out a loan to finance the six-month posting. "But it is a chance anyone would dream of. It does not matter if the jobs are menial. I would even turn down or delay a formal job offer if I got one to do this."

The students do not have to sign the Official Secrets Act because they are not allowed to see classified papers.

Hallé wins a reprieve

The sale of 'two pianos and a fiddle' gives breathing space to orchestra, says **Russell Jenkins**

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Hallé Orchestra, struggling with a £1.1 million debt, has been saved from immediate bankruptcy by selling "two pianos and a fiddle," it was announced yesterday.

The Manchester-based symphony orchestra will be able to stagger on until the end of next month after raising £200,000 by selling two Steinway pianos and a rare Amati violin to its own endowment appeal fund and leasing them back.

Senior members of the Hallé Concerts Society Board said the strategy would allow the orchestra to carry on while a crisis team conducts a fundamental review of every element of the society's operation. It is due to come up with a detailed rescue package by March 31 to convince stakeholders that the orchestra is worth saving.

The 22 man board, lambasted as unwieldy and out of date, is likely to be swept aside and slimmed down as a result of the restructuring plan which, besides the management structure, will take into account fund raising, ticket prices, financial and artistic controls and musicians' contracts. Any job losses are likely to be among back room staff rather than musicians. The plan to save the Hallé will also involve an extensive public appeal.

The board members devised the course of action at a four-hour crisis meeting in Manchester Town Hall on Wednesday night. They were discussing a report by KPMG which concluded that the total deficit at the end of the financial year will be £1.1 million. The action plan, which board members stress is only the first step in resolving the crisis, is designed to allow the orchestra to balance its books by March 2000.

The uncertainty over the Halle's future comes at a time when the orchestra's musical reputation is at one of the highest points in its 140-year history. Under Kent Nagano, the resident conductor, the orchestra has won plaudits for its adventurous programme and achieved ticket sales of around 80 per cent.

Nagano said that the "outpouring of support and love has been an incredibly emotional experience not only for myself but for all the artists on the stage. We face difficult and challenging times. Now we have at least until March 31 to come up with the answers."

PHIL NOBLE



Kent Nagano, the Halle's resident conductor

Labour reclaims Union Jack

BY NICHOLAS WATT

NEW LABOUR has reclaimed the Union Jack from right-wing "little Englanders" who hijacked the flag in the 1980s, Peter Mandelson said last night.

In an attack on the Thatcher era, the Minister Without Portfolio told a gathering of the leaders of Britain's Asian community: "It was terrible for me to watch, through our long years in Opposition, as the flag was hijacked by football hooligans or — most ironic of all — by little Englanders who equated patriotism with bigotry and intolerance. As the fabric of the country was strained by division, growing inequality and insularity, so the fabric of the flag was captured by those who represented all that was wrong with Britain.

"We have reclaimed the flag. It is restored as an emblem of national pride and diversity. Restored from years as a symbol of division and intolerance to a symbol of confidence and unity for all the peoples and ethnic communities of a diverse and outward-looking Britain."

In the most important speech on race relations by a Labour minister since the election, Mr Mandelson told the IK Foundation in Kenton, northwest London, that race laws would be updated if necessary. The Government had already introduced strong measures to combat racism and "mindless bigotry and thuggery", he said.

There will be specific offences of racially aggravated violence and harassment in the Crime and Disorder Bill. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has also announced the creation of a Race Relations Forum to give ethnic minorities a voice at the heart of the Government.

Germany blocks easing of beef sales

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN plans to ease the embargo on British beef were thrown into doubt yesterday when Germany and other states raised serious objections to a commission proposal to allow exports from certain herds in Northern Ireland.

The lack of support from a majority of senior veterinary officials means that the Commission must either redraft its plan or try to win agreement at the level of Farm Ministers.

"This could be a real problem," a spokesman for Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, said. "The whole scheme may have to go back to the drawing board."

The Commission's scheme would allow bone-free beef from younger animals to be exported from herds in Northern Ireland that had been certified free of BSE for at least eight years.

Resistance had been expected from Germany and a handful of other governments, but Brussels was surprised at the extent of the new conditions required by the veterinary officials. Their main complaint was the failure of the scheme to exclude herds that have had contact, however briefly, with animals from non-certified herds.

CORRECTION

The church of St Michael and All Angels, Sunderland, is a minster, not a cathedral, as incorrectly described in *Interface* (February 4).

Privacy

Continued from page 1

against the courts. Lord Wakeham kept up his barrage last night, with a speech to the Lords again voicing fears about the whole impact on press freedom of the Human Rights Bill, incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

He said that it would have enormous repercussions for the system of press self-regulation. "I say [this] because of what I see as the logical consequences of this Bill, which grafts a statutory superstructure onto our system of self-regulation."

Last night in the Lords, Lord Irvine suffered another setback, with a defeat on the Bill. Peers voted by a majority of 37 to limit its impact on churches and religious groups, although the Government will overturn the reverse in the Commons.

The peers' decision, if not overturned, would create a "conscience clause" for churches accused of breaches of human rights and protect their right to refuse to marry same-sex couples, non-communicants and divorcees.

William Hague said the news that the Lord Chancellor believed that writing stories about Mr Cook's behaviour as Foreign Secretary should be against the law was "the culmination of an extraordinary campaign by the Government". He added: "The Government seems to be arguing that they should not be subject to any scrutiny at all."

The Conservative leader added: "We have a Prime Minister who thinks he is a president. A Chancellor who thinks he should be prime minister. And we have a Lord Chancellor who thinks he is Cardinal Wolsey. Power has gone to their heads."

Irvine's image, page 8
Media Times, page 46

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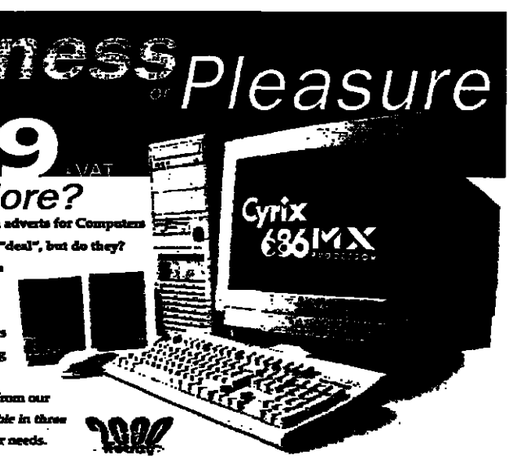
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THE TIMES 1998

Boys cleared of indecent assault on girl, 9

Police are criticised for ignoring child's history and asking leading question, writes Adrian Lee

THE TRIAL

POLICE and prosecutors were criticised yesterday after three boys were cleared of indecently assaulting a nine-year-old classmate at their school in West London. Police promised a review of the way in which young children are questioned about alleged sexual offences.

Two of the boys — the youngest in Britain to have been charged with rape — had earlier been cleared of that offence on the directions of the judge. Mrs Justice Bracewell ruled that a woman police officer had asked the girl a "wholly improper, leading question". A fourth boy, aged 10, was earlier cleared of indecent assault.

When the foreman of the jury stood up to deliver the verdicts after two and half hours of deliberation, one boy whispered to Robin Grey, QC, his counsel: "My heart is beating so fast I think I am going to die." Another sucked his thumb.

It had been alleged that the girl was pushed to the ground, held down, stripped, gagged and raped by three boys as two others laughed. One boy could not be charged because he was aged 9.

But under cross-examination via a video link, inconsistencies emerged in the girl's account. The jury was told she was a fantasist and a liar. The behaviour in the lavatory was sexual inquisitiveness and horseplay to which she had consented, the defence said.

Speaking outside the Old Bailey after the verdict, defence barristers said the case should never have reached court. Steven Kay, whose client was cleared of rape and indecent assault, said that had the girl's background been more closely scrutinised "prosecutors may well have reached a different conclusion about bringing proceedings".

The NSPCC said the Old Bailey was an inappropriate venue for children. It would hold a review and consider the need for a children's court.

A spokeswoman for the CPS said there had been a thorough examination of all the evidence. Mark Dennis, for the Crown, had told the court there was a clear allegation of a serious criminal offence. The judge ruled that it was in the public interest to proceed.

Detective Inspector Richard Quinn, who led the investigation, said he had no criticism of DC Trish Hindley, the child protection officer who interviewed the girl. She asked: "Did they put anything else in your pokey?" That, said the judge, put the idea of rape into the girl's mind and tainted the two rape charges. Mr Quinn said guidelines had been followed but interview training methods would now be reviewed. He had considered the girl a credible witness.

The girl, now 10, is a tomboy who craves friendship and attention. Sexually abused and neglected in Jamaica, where she was brought up by relatives, she is the fourth of her mother's eight children by three different men. A target for bullies at school, she thought her looks were to blame for her inability to make many friends.

"Am I pretty, Mummy?" she would ask. According to a close family friend, a few days before the incident she had persuaded her mother to allow her to have extensions to her normally short hair. Later she pulled them out.

In August 1996, a home near the school was destroyed by fire. Initially blamed on an electrical fault, it is now believed that it was one of four fires started by the girl as a cry for help. The girl, who is deeply religious and attends church and Sunday school, believed that she was possessed by spirits.

Since the incident, the family has been rehoused off the estate. The girl, who is at a new school, now receives smothering attention from her mother.

The friend said: "In some ways it seems to have affected her more than her daughter. She hardly lets her little girl out of the house."



An artist's drawing of the Old Bailey court where the boys were accused of indecently assaulting a nine-year-old classmate. One sucked his thumb as the verdict was announced and another told his defence barrister that his heart was beating so fast he thought he was going to die

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The clearing of the three 10-year-old boys and one aged 11 will refuel debate over what age children should be brought before the criminal courts, even though the Old Bailey trial was made as friendly as possible.

Peter Carter, QC, counsel for one of the boys, said the flaw with the proceedings was that from the start inadequate inquiries were made about the girl's background. "Everyone involved, police, social services, education department, decided to label the girl the victim and the boys the abusers and from that point they were divided into those tracks and treated accordingly."

A more inquisitorial approach should have been used, treating all five equally, to find out what had happened. "Criminal proceedings for children of this age in this kind of case are wholly inappropriate and do no good at all," Mr Carter said.

Tainted head left with £21,000 payoff

BY ADRIAN LEE AND TIM JONES

THE SCHOOL

A SECRET deal was arranged to remove the headmistress of the primary school quickly from her post, and the school is to close later this year.

A confidential report into the incident by the local authority's director of education was critical of the head, who is in her 40s. She went on sick leave two days after the alleged attack and never returned, eventually receiving a £21,786 payoff.

Documents seen by *The Times* show that only a few weeks after the allegations were made it had already been decided that she would leave, ostensibly on health grounds. But she was not unwell, the court was told.

The trial judge, Mrs Justice Bracewell, told the jury: "The head teacher was, in effect, asked to resign."

Although tainted by the internal report, which stated that "the usual supervisory procedures were not in place", the head was given a good reference when she officially left in August. It said that she had "established high expectations for teaching and learning and for the management of behaviour". She had also worked to increase the children's "sense of responsibility for their own learning and behaviour".

The reference made no mention of the incident and concluded: "The demands of the post have resulted in [her] seeking to further her career elsewhere." A condition of the payoff was a confidentiality clause that prevents her discussing the school.

The school's closure has been blamed on falling pupil numbers but sources at the council admitted that the rape allegations were also a factor. After the alleged rape, parents organised a petition calling for the removal of the head.

According to the local authority, only six parents withdrew their sons and daughters after learning of the alleged rape in a letter from the chairman of governors. The register shows that the number of pupils has dwindled from 182 last year to 104, just half the total in 1994.

The school has been beset by problems for years. In 1990 inspectors said the school was causing serious concern. A new head and extra teachers were drafted in but improvement was temporary. The former head, who had 17 years' teaching experience, including posts in Brixton and Camden, said she had never before heard such highly developed sexual language in the playground. She blamed the influence of rap music.

The education authority's internal report said there was an urgent need for sex education for the pupils. Class five, in which the four accused boys and the girl were taught, was considered the most difficult.

Almost half the pupils have learning difficulties. Seven out of ten come from ethnic minorities and many are from single-parent families. The latest inspection identified "significant underachievement".

One former pupil said the head had been unfairly forced out by parent-power. "They were looking for a scapegoat. You cannot keep your eye on every child for every minute." But one mother, who withdrew her three children a month after the incident, said: "Boys would run into the girl's toilets and touch them. It wasn't just kiss chase."

An official at the education authority admitted the school would not be mourned but said: "This should not be seen as a school full of monsters."

Gang welded together the arrogant and timid

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE BOYS

ON THE huge West London estate, with its uniform blocks of flats and extensive concrete walkways, even the smallest boys were in a gang — or wanted to be.

Boy A, standing barely 4ft high in his designer trainers, was one of the playground leaders. He had his own mobile telephone, was streetwise and used the sexual language associated with much older children.

His former headmistress said that she had never encountered anything like such use of language in many years of teaching at inner-city primary schools. "In my opinion it was words developed from pop songs, made into rhyming and clapping games." Young children were exposed to words that they did not really understand. "For me, it was quite shocking."

He has two sisters and lives with his mother. His father is abroad and the boy was accompanied to court by his uncle. At school he was regarded as confrontational and was placed in a group for children with behavioural difficulties.

The second boy to be cleared of rape was an arrogant child, according to his headmistress. He was educationally below average and was frequently involved in playground fights. He lives with his mother, a computer operator at a private hospital, after the break-up of her marriage.

The girl found it hardest to come to terms with the involvement of boy C, her cousin, who was cleared of holding her down. The pair, separated by only a few months, grew up virtually as brother and sister in Spanish Town, Jamaica.

He spends most of his time with his Jamaican father, who according to friends is a disciplinarian. "He is one of the nicest men you could hope to meet," said one.

Tests on boy C showed that he had a below-average IQ of 75, poor social awareness and emotional problems. He was the only one of the defendants to have been expelled. He was deemed only just fit to plead because of his difficulty in understanding right from wrong.

The fourth boy was the only one to show regret when first questioned. Acting as look-out, boy D refused his friends' demands to lie on top of the girl, incurring their wrath and reducing him to tears. Asked by the head why he was there, he replied: "I wanted to be in their gang." He, too, is from a broken home.

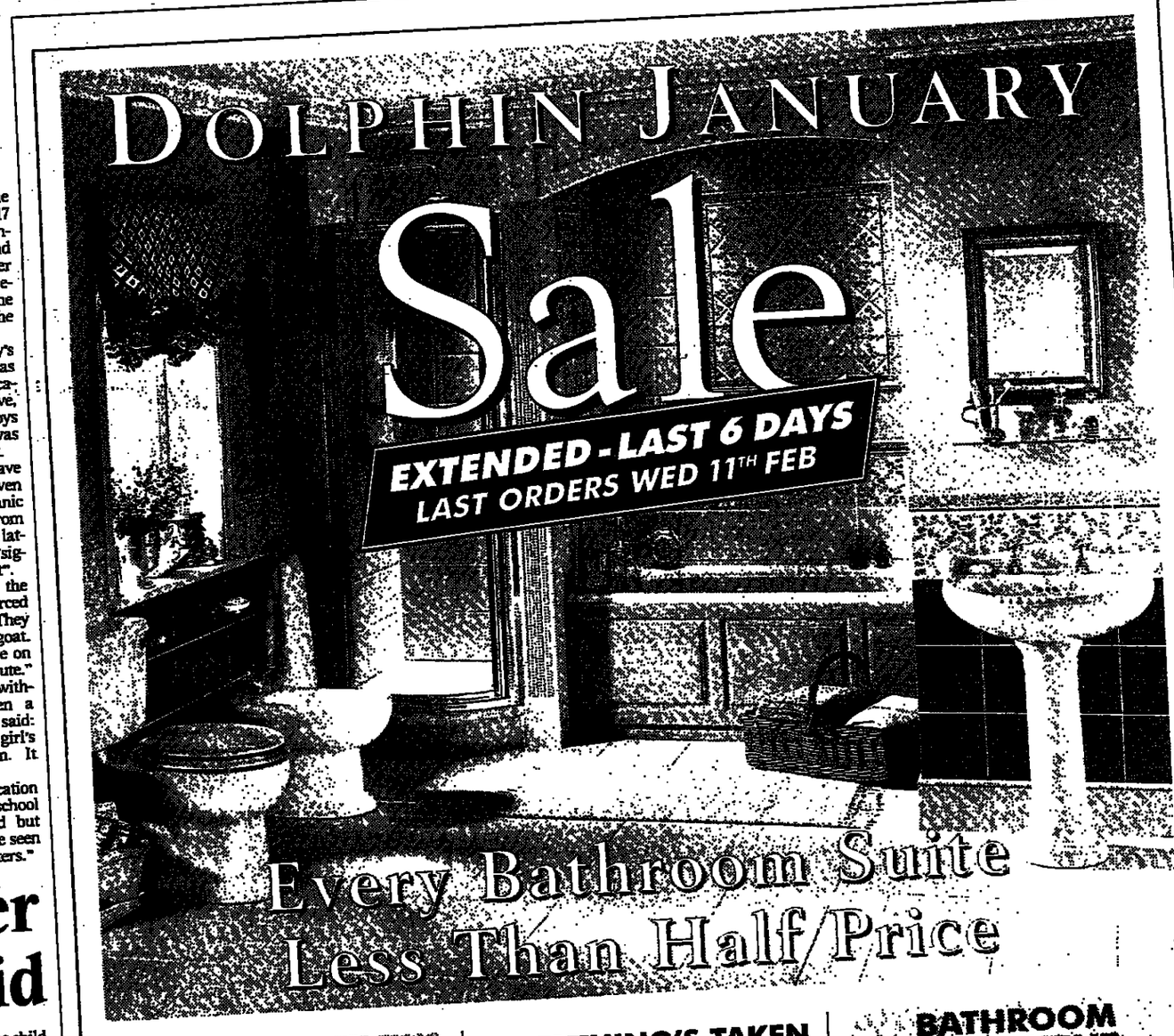
SEXUAL AWARENESS

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Boys as young as 6 commit serious sexual assaults and by 8 or 9 are capable of committing rape, according to experts working with young sex abusers.

Eileen Vizard, clinical director of a project treating juvenile abusers, is working with four boys aged between 10 and 12 who are facing charges of sexual assault. She believes the anxiety about juvenile sexual violence is a result of much greater public awareness and a willingness by care workers, educationists and particularly the police to treat it more seriously than in the past.

Dr Vizard said: "The police are now much more aware and know that this kind of behaviour in the young can lead on to adult sex offending." Previously it was seen as being "just experimental". Dr Vizard added that she did not believe that juvenile sexual violence was increasing at the same time as the age of puberty was falling.



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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6 1998

Murder mystery unravels for widow

Woman jailed for killing her aunt was freed at the Old Bailey yesterday, writes **Frances Gibb**

IF SHE had not been worried about her car's steering, Sheila Bowler, a widowed piano teacher, would not have left her late husband's elderly aunt while she sought help, and would not have been jailed for her murder.

Mrs Bowler, then aged 63, was driving home to Rye in East Sussex with Florence Jackson, 89. "Aunt Flo" was going to stay for a few days and Mrs Bowler had taken her for a run to Bexhill on the fine May day in 1992 after collecting her from the residential home where she lived.

Driving down a steep hill at Winchelsea, Mrs Bowler detected trouble with the car's steering. The tyre had worried her before so she pulled up at the bottom of the hill to have a look. The tyre was partly deflated.

By now it was dark and Mrs Bowler went for help at a cottage near by. It took time to contact the rescue service and when she returned 30 minutes later, Aunt Flo was gone. Next morning her body was found floating in the River Brede, 500 yards from the car.

Some 14 months later Mrs Bowler, a respected teacher who did charity work and was a pillar of the Rye community — Mr Justice Wright this week described her as of "impeccable character" — was serving a life sentence for Aunt Flo's murder.

The Crown's case was that she was a "cold, callous and calculating" murderer who had pushed her aunt into the river. Mrs Bowler consistently protested her innocence but the case seemed so perfect.

There was a financial motive: the fees for the residential home were mounting and it looked as if Aunt Flo's flat would have to be sold to meet them. The flat had been left to Mrs Bowler in Aunt Flo's will, although the music teacher did not know that.

She recalls her shock when she was arrested a week after Aunt Flo died: "I could not believe it; I just felt quite sick. They interrogated me and that was dreadful, absolutely dreadful ... and I had been told by my solicitor not to say anything because I would just tie myself up in knots so I just had to listen to all these terrible things and say 'no comment'."

Once under suspicion, anything she said took on a sinister meaning, she said. Some weeks elapsed while police continued their investigations. Then came the second shock of being charged with murder. Tipped off by her solicitor that this was about to happen, Mrs Bowler recalls that she started to shake.

When the police arrived, she told them: "It's all such a shock, especially as I'm innocent. How long will I be?" Should she, she asked, take her shopping list? She was then on bail for a year before the trial.

She was not worried. "If you're innocent, you believe in this great British justice system which has no failings whatsoever. I was always



Florence Jackson: body was found in river

confident it would be all right."

But it was to take two appeals — the second after the case had been referred back by the Home Secretary — and the final trial of the past three weeks before it was all right.

The events of one evening had shattered her life and that of her close family: her daughter, Jane, then at the start of a budding career as a professional musician, and her son, Simon. But they and many friends set about mounting a campaign for her release.

The crime had all the ingredients of an Agatha Christie murder story: the respectable middle-class teacher accused of murdering her defenceless old aunt. The small communities of Rye and Winchelsea were split: those who knew the forthright teacher and had seen her attentive and loving care for Aunt Flo and her late sister Lil over many years could not believe her capable of murder. Others refused to believe the equally implausible alternative: that Aunt Flo, thought unable to walk more than a few steps unaided, could have shuffled 500 yards down the dark country lane from the car to the river and fallen in.

Angela Devlin, who with her husband, Tim, led the campaign for her release and has written a book on the case, says it was a "classic whodunnit, with all the elements of the murder mysteries on the shelves of the local library, read and re-read by the tutting matrons and gaumphing colonels who take tiffin in the chintzy tea rooms of Rye".

What made the case so hard for the defence, Mrs Devlin says, was partly Mrs Bowler's personality. The daughter of a Methodist solicitor, brought up in the tradition of maintaining a stiff upper lip, she had learnt to show fortitude and cope with whatever disasters befell her. It is the story, she says, of the "woman who would not cry".

A few months before Mrs Jackson's death, Mrs Bowler had suffered the untimely loss of her husband, a post office manager and local church warden, after a minor operation. She had shown the same stoicism then as when later told about Mrs Jackson. The police took her reaction to be guilt.

She could also be brusque and says Mrs Devlin: "Sheila was a great talker. Rye friends and acquaintances spoke fondly of her good deeds but admitted crossing the street to avoid her if they were in a hurry." She also made herself unpopular with the nursing staff at Aunt Flo's home, constantly complaining that their care was not up to standard. But she was fond of the old lady, saying "she could be very obstinate and independent but she was loveable and I got on with her".

Mrs Bowler herself was convinced that Mrs Jackson could not walk and told the police as much. "I said, 'there's no point looking beyond the bridge', [down towards the river where Mrs Jackson was found] because I knew she could not walk that far. But of course they twisted that to show I was trying to stop them finding her."

The guilty verdict, delivered on July 12, 1993, stunned her: "I could not believe I had been convicted of a crime I had not committed." Some 4½ years in prison were to follow. "When those gates clang beind you you lose freedom, self-respect, confidence, everything."

Holloway Prison, she says, was the "saddest place I have ever been in. I was shocked at the number of youngsters ... they were such a wreck, physically and mentally too, and most on drugs."

On her first night she was put into a four-bed room: "One woman was screaming out of the window, another throwing a chair around the room and a third screaming, 'Gimme a light!' I thought, this is a madhouse."

During the coming months she kept herself going with the thought of the campaign and her supporters outside. She received hundreds of letters: one friend wrote every other day. She obtained prison jobs in the garden, in the library and best of all for her, in the chapel, giving her access to the piano. She also kept a diary: "Terrible lunch yesterday of fish which was covered with batter and very dry because we had come up very late from the gardens. Supper not much better: dried-up meat piece, been on hotplate from 3.15 to 4.15."

The diary, which formed part of Angela Devlin's book, also recorded her depressions: "October 3, 1993: Feeling of depression almost unbearable. My mood swings are most unlike me. Will I ever get out of this hell hole? I think the worst emotion is loneliness, which is worse than boredom."

At times she met with hostility: "Bloody murderer", one inmate muttered at her. "I suddenly became very deaf," she says. But she also made friends and her personal welfare officer attended both her appeal and retrial. It was that backing that sustained her. "It was all the support ... and my faith," she says. "I don't know how people manage without it. My mind and my thoughts were always outside, although my body was in there."

The worst thing about her incarceration, she says, was the loss of freedom and lack of trust from the prison officers. "They don't trust you at all — they are everlastingly suspicious and they play mind games with you."

She is not bitter, just angry. "I felt it would be wasting my energy to go round creating merry hell — I needed my energy to keep me going. I am," she admits, "quite a strong person — which is not good from a jury's point of view. They want to see you cry."

When the Court of Appeal ordered a retrial last July, she was released on bail and returned to her home in Rye. It was a shock readjusting; she got lost at the shops and kept thinking she had to do things immediately "before I got locked in again".

Prison has made her more tolerant, she says, about offenders or "people who have fallen by the wayside". She no longer automatically condemns those sentenced by the court. "I also amazed myself how I managed to cope."

Back in Rye, some still think she did it. She knows she will have to live with that but insists: "It would never occur to me to harm anyone." As for what happened that night: "I think she must have walked, though I didn't think she could at the time."

BILL GRAHAM



Sheila Bowler spent 4½ years in prison after being found guilty in a case that had all the ingredients of an Agatha Christie tale

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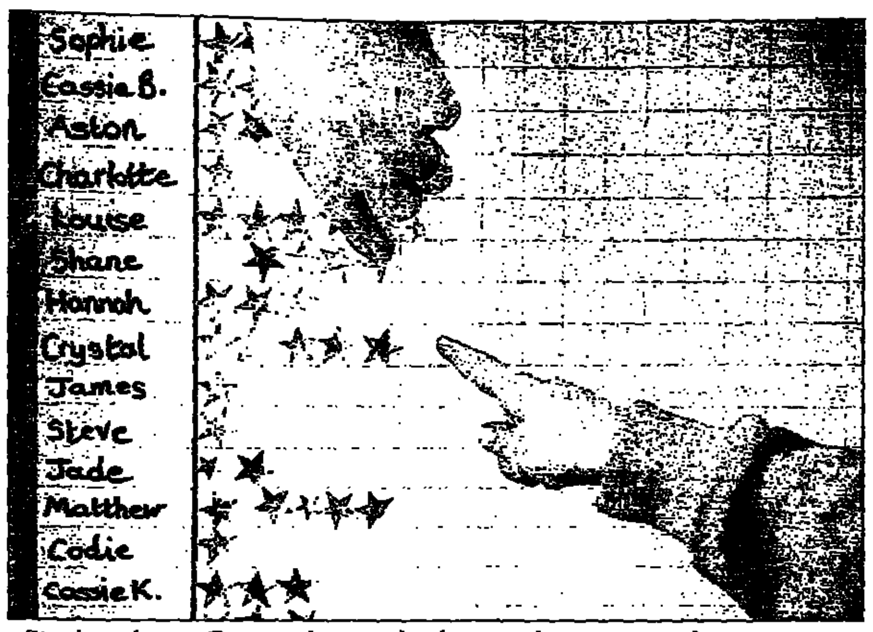
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Schools chief challenges claim by researchers that grading does not help pupils to reach potential



Star board at an Exeter primary school: researchers want marks once a term



STEVE HILL

Proud moment: Laura Fraise, 6, with a gold star at Harborne infants' school, Birmingham. Mr Woodhead said: "Gold stars must stay"

Gold stars fail to make grade, say academics

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS were yesterday advised to stop awarding gold stars or marks out of ten if they want to help pupils to realise their full potential.

Giving grades in tests and exercise books reinforced failure for too many children, academics from King's College London said. The researchers drew on 250 international studies and were led by Professor Paul Black, who ten years ago drew up the national curriculum assessment framework. Yesterday's conclusions were immediately challenged by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, who said: "Competition is an educational good. Children are motivated by rewards. Gold stars must stay."

Professor Black and his team said that findings from Australia, France and Hong Kong proved otherwise. If children were constantly tested and given marks for their work, the best did only what was necessary to score points while the lowest achievers "tuned out" to preserve their self-esteem. If pupils were occasionally allowed to assess themselves and given constructive comments by teachers, achievements could be raised by as much as two GCSE grades. No child should receive marks more than once a term, they added.



Professor Black: focus on learning needs

Professor Black, who believes his original vision for diagnostic national assessment has been overtaken by competitive grading, said: "Where the classroom culture focuses on rewards, gold stars, grades or place-in-the-class ranking, then pupils look for ways to obtain the best marks rather than at the needs of their learning.

"Pupils who encounter difficulties and poor marks are led to believe they lack ability, so they 'retire hurt' to avoid investing effort which could only lead to disappointment, and try to build their esteem in other ways. While the high-achievers can do well in such a culture, the overall result is to enhance frequency and extent of under-achievement."

Dylan Wiliam, who assisted Professor Black, denied that their approach was "soft". Giving children a clear idea where they were going wrong was far harder than simply ticking exercise books, he said. "This is a very hard-edged approach. It would make things much more difficult for teachers. We also know that when it happens, it works."

The researchers referred to Mr Woodhead's annual report, published on Tuesday, in which he criticised assessment in half of primary and one-third of secondary schools. In an earlier report on primaries, Ofsted said that poor marking "reinforced under-achievement and under-expectation".

Mr Woodhead said: "We need a system of external tests to tell us how children have done at different points of their schooling and to keep parents informed. We need better day-to-day assessment of children's work. Teachers need to mark work, talk to children about their mistakes, and plan new learning."

Professor Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment Studies at Brunel University, said: "I do not think it does children any favours to try to hide from them how well or badly they are doing, because, especially from the age of seven, they will know in a general sense."

Leading article, page 21
Education, page 49

Blunkett's praise for report serves as lesson in conciliation

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT intervened yesterday in the stand-off between two senior education advisers to proclaim the success of Birmingham's preference for carrot over stick in raising education standards.

Arguments over an Ofsted report on the city had become a rallying point for supporters of the different strands of government policy. Professor Tim Brighouse, Birmingham's chief education officer, champions the power of support for teachers, while Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is the best-known exponent of raising results through pressure.

Professor Brighouse had demanded the withdrawal of some criticisms in an otherwise positive draft report. When the final document was published yesterday some passages had been toned down but significant doubts were raised about the scale of improvement in Birmingham's schools and the suitability of the authority as a model for other areas.

However, Mr Blunkett unexpectedly issued a statement proclaiming the "success story" described in the report. "There is still room for further improvement but I am confident that Birmingham will rise to the challenge."

Ofsted issued the report without comment. Mr Woodhead said later: "While acknowledging the good things, it is important not to lose sight of the areas where we have identified room for considerable improvement."

Roy Pinney, Birmingham education chairman, said: "I am very pleased with the overall tenor of this report."

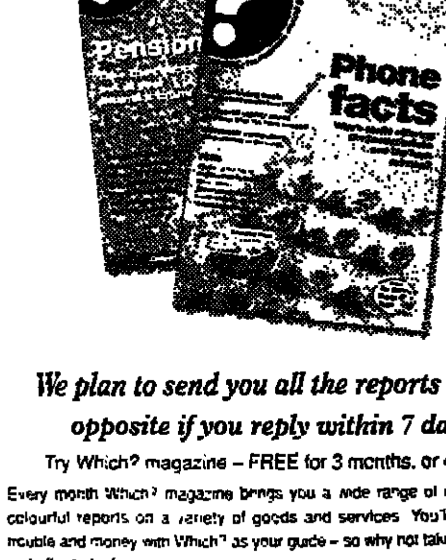
The report described Birmingham as "efficient and effective" and said Professor Brighouse's leadership was an important factor in raising examination performance faster than the national average.

However, it questioned whether the city had launched too many initiatives rather than concentrating on improving pupils' basic skills.

MALE TEACHERS BETTER FOR BOYS

Boys make better progress at primary school if they are taught by a man, researchers from the University of Wales said yesterday. In a study of two classes of eight-year-olds, boys with a male teacher outperformed girls in reading and the situation was reversed for girls with a woman teacher. Sine McDougall, a psychology lecturer at Swansea, said that the findings emphasised the importance of teachers as role models. She added: "There seems to be an absence of role models for boys."

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Atkinson accuser agrees to shake and make up in assault case

By Tim Jones

A MAGISTRATE yesterday persuaded a motorist who accused the Premiership football manager Ron Atkinson of assaulting him to settle the case with a handshake.

Mr Atkinson, 58, the manager of Sheffield Wednesday, faced a possible prison sentence or heavy fine if he had been convicted of common assault on Martin Player, 33, who had gestured at Mr Atkinson over his driving.

After listening to the evidence for 45 minutes at Birmingham Magistrates' Court, Bruce Morgan, the West Midlands stipendiary magistrate, invited Mr Player to talk to his wife about whether he wanted the case to continue. "You have presumably made mistakes in your years of driving and been on the receiving end of gestures like that," he said. Mr Player agreed.

Mr Morgan added: "Is this one of those cases where you can go outside and shake hands and call it a day? Go outside and discuss it with your wife."

The proceedings were adjourned for 20 minutes before Mr Player, who admitted he had not expected the case to go so far, returned to accept the suggestion. Before dismissing the charge, Mr Morgan told Mr Atkinson: "If anything like this happens again, just rise above it and drive away."



Player: won praise for a courageous decision

He complimented Mr Player, from Olton, West Midlands, for his "right and courageous decision" and added: "Take the same advice I give my wife. Always drive with the door locked. If you had done that you would not be here today."

As Mr Morgan rose to finish the proceedings, Mr Atkinson walked from the dock to shake Mr Player briefly by the hand with the words "well done". Mr Player, an insurance salesman who has two children, replied "cheers".

Mr Player, in evidence, said he had been driving his Vauxhall Cavalier in Birmingham when he noticed a blue Jaguar beside him in the right-hand lane. He said the driver was using a mobile telephone and did not appear to be concentrating. Then, he said, the driver without warning moved across his path.

"I was very annoyed. It was a totally inconsiderate piece of driving. I thought he was not concentrating because of the mobile phone. I shouted at him from within my car and made a gesture."

He said the car stopped and the driver got out. He realised it was Mr Atkinson. "He came towards me and looked very annoyed, as if in a rage. He hit the front panel of my car with his fist and then yanked open my car door and started to shout very loudly.

"He made some effort to apologise but after that he got hold of my hair and pulled me towards him forcibly and threatened to punch me. Then he pushed my head back and walked away. There was no physical injury but it hurt."

In a police statement read to the court, Mr Atkinson said: "I looked in the rear-view mirror and saw him mouthing and making rude gestures. I thought he was going to have an epileptic fit.

"I got out of my car to find out why he was ranting and raving. I said I was sorry for cutting him up but added I was not impressed with his gestures and mouthing. I told him to cut that out." Mr Atkinson denied assaulting Mr Player.

Mr Player denied a suggestion by Desmond De Silva, QC, for Mr Atkinson, that he had exploited a brief encounter with a celebrity for his own ends.

After the case Mr Player left by a back door but Mr Atkinson emerged through the front entrance to face a crowd of cameramen. Before leaving with his wife, Margaret, for a celebratory lunch he said: "I am very pleased with the result. The magistrate has shown a lot of common sense."

Asked whether Mr Morgan would make a good football referee, he replied: "No, he is too sensible."

Mr De Silva said: "This is the first time in my 33 years' experience I have encountered such an outcome. It was a sensible way of resolving it." If Mr Atkinson, who pleaded not guilty, had been convicted he faced a possible sentence of up to 21 days in prison.

He returned to Sheffield Wednesday this season for the second time after spells as manager of Coventry City, Manchester United, Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion and Atletico Madrid. He is also a television commentator on football.

STUART HARRISON



Case dismissed: Ron Atkinson leaving court with his wife Margaret after shaking hands with his accuser

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police take body of boy from undertaker

The grieving parents of a boy aged four had to postpone his funeral yesterday after police took his body from the undertaker's.

Ryan Hudson died last week after falling ill at school in March, Cambridgeshire. Police released the body before the cause of death had been determined and "repossessed" it while awaiting toxicology test results.

Shaun Hudson and Tracey Taylor discovered their son's body had gone only when friends went to view it.

Vases found

A pair of Meissen vases dating from the 1760s have been recovered during a police purge on crime in the North East. The vases, worth an estimated £100,000, were found during a raid on a house in Gateshead.

Good behaviour

A man was given a one-day sentence after keeping out of trouble while wanted for obstructing police and breaching punishments for burglary and deception. Shaun Galsworthy vanished from Gloucester in 1992.

Tin mine to shut

Europe's last tin mine, South Crofty in Cornwall, is to close after the Government's decision yesterday not to contribute about half of a £12 million rescue plan. About 200 jobs will go when the mine, near Redruth, closes on March 6.

Soldiers buried

Ten French soldiers believed to have been prisoners in the Napoleonic wars were finally laid to rest at a Roman Catholic ceremony at Southsea. Their remains were found by builders at Fareham, near Southampton, in December.

Cones amnesty

Police in Wiltshire have launched an amnesty for stolen traffic cones. Late-night revellers have taken 150, worth about £750. PC Mike Rose said: "We are asking people to hand them in at their police station."

I was called Bubbles, says golfer expelled in race row

By Lin Jenkins

A BRITISH Airways pilot expelled from a golf club for shouting an allegedly racist remark said he took no offence from being known to members by a name derived from his Greek origins, the High Court was told yesterday.

Christopher Lankey said he regarded the name, Bubbles, as an affectionate one and not as racist or abusive. "It is Cockney rhyming slang [bubble and squeak] for being Greek. I have always thought people use it as a term of endearment," he said.

Mr Lankey denied that shouting "cut the cheating Irish bastard" as his sometime golfing partner Shane Roche collected an award at a prize-giving ceremony in 1995 was deliberately offensive. The remark was aimed at his handicap.

He said that rather than being a racist, he believed that there were not enough Irish people. "What upsets me most is that there are not enough of them in the world."



Lankey, left, said comments about Roche, his golfing partner, were not deliberately offensive

Asked by Richard Spearman, for Ealing Golf Club, "That is a sentiment you express with these remarks?" he replied: "Shane has called me far worse for my handicap."

The court was told of a catalogue of complaints about Mr Lankey's conduct and of two incidents of "ungentlemanly conduct" in relation to women members. On one occasion when he cut through the course to retrieve a golfclub head cover, Angela Burridge, who was playing the 12th hole, shouted at him.

"She screamed at me to go away and go round by the path. She screamed and said 'this time I will make sure you are for the high jump'," he said.

Asked why he did not go away so as not to be provocative, he said: "Provocation to Angela Burridge, as far as I'm concerned, is being alive."

In March 1991 he received a written warning saying members were entitled to a quiet drink at the bar without listening to him shouting and swearing and abusing everybody within earshot. Mr Lankey denied claims that he had headbutted a member.

Mr Spearman asked him if he had gone back to complain at the club that it must be watering down the beer after a breathalyser test while driving his Porsche was negative. Mr Lankey replied: "No it was a joke — a week or two later."

Mr Lankey, 49, from Bayswater, West London, is seeking a declaration that the expulsion was null and void, plus damages for the loss of the pleasure of membership.

Dr Roche, a physician at St Giles' Hospital and St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, said his nine-year-old son had been quite upset when he heard the remark at the prize-giving. He did not think the Irish remark was racist himself but discovered that other club members — including a fellow Irishman who wrote a letter of complaint — had taken offence and had to be considered.

Malcolm Gibson, the club's former general manager, said it was decided at first simply to admonish Mr Lankey severely for the remark since the club captain, Tom Buchanan, was also facing disciplinary proceedings for even worse behaviour on the following evening when he was drunk and had sworn and been abusive to all prize winners.

"His disciplinary file was equally bad. We thought we would have to act evenhandedly to both. We did not want the stigma of the captain being expelled from the golf club."

The hearing continues.

China move paves way for Branson

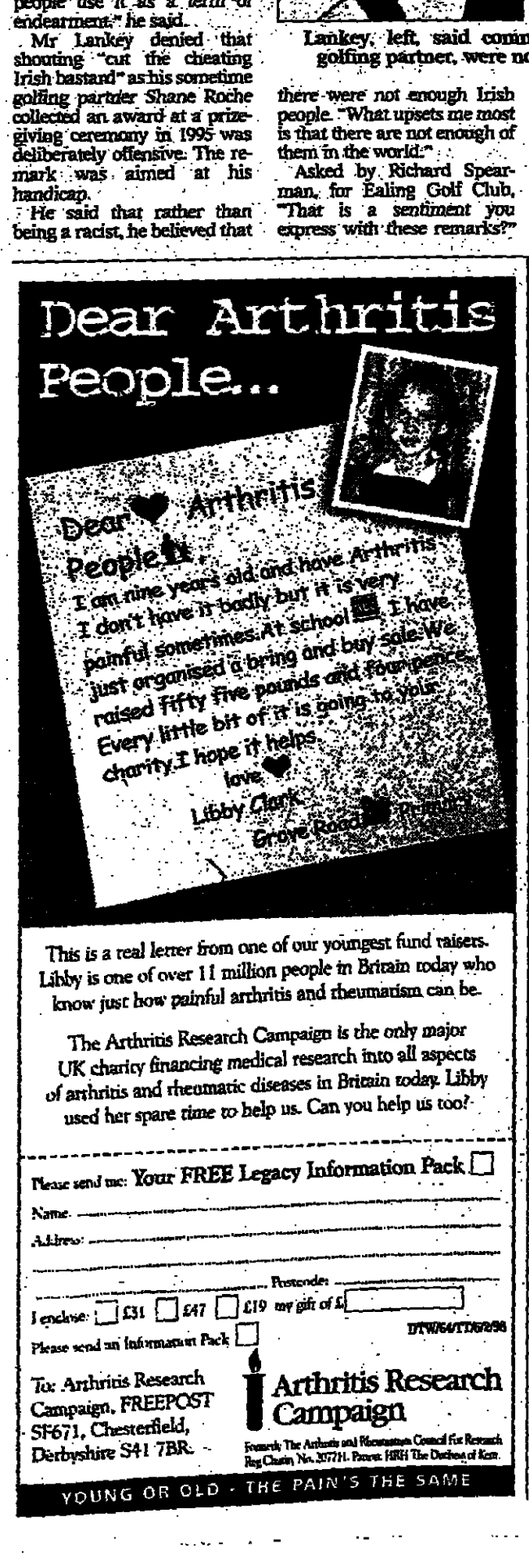
From Reuter in Geneva

A BELATED decision by China to allow the *Breitling Orbiter 2* to fly over its territory is expected to pave the way for Richard Branson in his attempt to circumnavigate the world by balloon.

The move came too late, however, for the *Orbiter's* three-man crew, including Andy Elson, the British flight engineer, to reconsider their flight course. The balloon was south of Calcutta yesterday and too far south of China to get back into the jet streams. Alan Noble, the *Orbiter's* flight director, said he expected the team to try again next year. They are on track to beat a nine-day record for a non-stop flight, set in 1986, at 10am today.

Mr Noble said: "I'm certain the decision of the Chinese, although too late for us, will be good for other balloons. It came as a shock to be told we had permission when it was no use to us. But it will be useful to Branson and we wish him good luck."

Mr Branson is expected to set off from Morocco again soon. His *Global Challenger* balloon broke its moorings there in December but was recovered in Algeria.



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Irwine's image in urgent need of restoration

Andrew Pierce and James Landale on a troubling time for the Lord Chancellor

THE Lord Chancellor's latest gaffe illustrates a need to speed up his faltering efforts to recruit a high-flying communications director to restore his battered image.

The omens are not good. So far, after an extensive trawl through Whitehall, only seven civil servants have applied for the post, which offers a salary of £52,000.

Few relish the prospect of working for a man who, by his own admission, does not suffer fools gladly, thrives on confrontation, and is a workaholic. Lord Irvine of Lairg arrives at his office at 6.50am each day, and does not leave before 8pm. His officials are expected to follow the pace.

Labour MPs acknowledge that he is a brilliant lawyer but some are questioning whether he is too clever by half and fear that he has become a loose cannon.

Since arriving at the Lord Chancellor's Department, he has regularly pointed out that he considers himself far more influential than previous Lord Chancellors — with the exception of Cardinal Wolsey, Henry VIII's all-powerful Lord Chancellor, with whom he compared himself in an interview with *The Times*.

As the only unelected member of the Cabinet, Lord Irvine still has much to learn about politics, as he has discovered in the chamber, which has devised a new bloodsport — Irvine baiting. He is being subjected, because of his high-handed manner, to the sort of cruel mockery unprecedented in the normally polite environs of the Upper House.

A barrage of uncharacteristic jokes were made at his expense during a debate on the Bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a crossbencher, said: "We raised no objection when my noble and learned friend appeared to be trying on a cardinal's hat. It is only when he goes on to claim the triple tiara of infallibility that we beg to demur."

Lord Longford said: "I have high and sincere esteeem for the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor, particularly since he compared himself to Cardinal Wolsey. In the Catholic church, we genuflect in front of a cardinal."

Baroness Young said: "I recognise that in addressing the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chancellor, I am effectively addressing Cardinal Wolsey. Perhaps we should call him Your Emminence."

Lord Irvine was born in 1940 in Inverness, the son of a slater and a waitress. But after grammar school and Glasgow University, he went on to Cambridge and a brilliant career at the bar. Now even his friends describe him as an intellectual snob.

His widely expected elevation to the Cabinet was described as one of Tony Blair's most astute appointments. Having been Mr Blair's pupilmaster in Chambers, he remains his mentor today. They speak each day, to the chagrin of colleagues who resent his unrivalled influence or have been bruised by his combative technique in Cabinet committees, where he is acknowledged as a good chairman.

He chairs two Cabinet committees, three sub-committees, and is a member of four others. His predecessor, the affable Lord Mackay of Clashfern, served on none. The new communications post, which has caused wry amusement among some of his Cabinet colleagues, was invented by Lord Irvine to reflect the increased importance of his role in Government. He is the highest paid member of the Government, on £140,000 a year, and was the only Cabinet minister who took the full pay rise last year. He has reminded his critics in the past of the personal sacrifice involved in accepting high office. As a lawyer, he earned up to £500,000 a year.

But he is seen by the Opposition as one of the few weak links in the Cabinet. Only Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, is regarded as more vulnerable by the Tories, who have had few genuine targets since May 1.

Leading article, page 20
Media Times, page 46

MICHAEL J. O'BRIEN



Lord Irvine: considers himself far more influential than previous Lord Chancellors

Lesson of Wolsey's fate

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE rise and fall of Cardinal Wolsey, a 16th-century Lord Chancellor to whom Lord Irvine famously compared himself last year, may hold some valuable lessons for the present occupant of the post.

Like Irvine, Wolsey was a self-made man who found his way to the Woolsack through his position as mentor to a younger but more powerful figure. Irvine, the son of a slater, was appointed to the office by his former pupil in chambers, Tony Blair, while Wolsey, the son of a butcher, found influence with Henry VIII while chaplain to his father, Henry VII.

Wolsey's downfall was the fate of an able and influential statesman whose overbearing arrogance and extravagance alienated first his fellow courtiers, and ultimately Henry VIII himself. Ostentatious spending, flaunted influence and haughty self-importance were not qualities that endeared the Lord Chancellor to colleagues or King.

While his diplomatic failure was the immediate cause of his downfall, Wolsey's predilection for amassing power and wealth second only to the King's left him in a vulnerable position. He found himself charged with *praemunire*, an offence second only to treason in seriousness that involved "usurping the King's sovereign powers in his realm", pleaded guilty and gave up his seal of office to Sir Thomas More in 1530. Arrested on charges of treason on November 4, the Cardinal died while travelling to meet the King.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS BILL

THE Human Rights Bill incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, allowing people to enforce their rights in British courts rather than taking action in Strasbourg. (Frances Gibb writes). The convention is a statement of civil and political rights drawn up after the Second World War. Many of the rights in the convention are not specified in English law, such as the right to a private life, the right to education, the right to marry and have a family and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The convention contains the right to freedom of expression, and also the right to privacy. The present dispute between the Government and the media is about how far the Bill will curb press freedom. The Government has ruled out creating a statutory privacy law but it admits that over time judges will develop a privacy law, case by case.

We should not have to crawl cap in hand, say editors

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPNDENT

THE press and MPs joined Lord Wakeham in opposing the principle of prior restraint yesterday, which they said would result in newspaper editors crawling cap in hand to the watchdog and asking for permission to print their stories.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said that the system — enabling people to ask the commission to stop stories being published which apparently invaded their privacy — cast the commission in the role of censor "deciding the information the public should and should not have".

In a letter to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, he warned him that prior restraint could only be used by public figures who knew that they were being investigated — namely public figures who should be under scrutiny. "It would be of no practical use to ordinary people and is therefore a device which the public should look upon only with scepticism," he wrote.

"Many stories — and we can all think of high-profile examples — have begun with what appeared to be an intrusion into privacy. Many of them have finished up exposing matters of corruption or hypocrisy that it was in the public interest to expose."

He said that imposing fines on newspapers would turn the PCC into a quasi-legal body not geared to the needs of ordinary people. "I am quite clear that powers of censorship would make the system impossible to run — and it is not one that, as a democrat, I would ever want to run."

However, Andrew Marr, former Editor of *The Independent*, said newspapers that breached the code should be heavily fined, and editors who transgressed should be fired by their proprietors. But he dismissed the idea of prior restraint as a "bird that would never fly". He said: "You can't have editors creeping off to judges and saying 'Please Sir may I publish this?'" He defended the Robin Cook story, saying: "You might think the story about his mistress and his secretary is relatively trivial, but it's politics. You can't have a law which says you can't get into the private lives of politicians."

Bob Satchwell, president of the Guild of Editors and editor of the *Cambridge Evening News*, said: "Lord Irvine's latest pronouncements are deeply worrying. Prior restraint is simply a softer phrase for censorship.

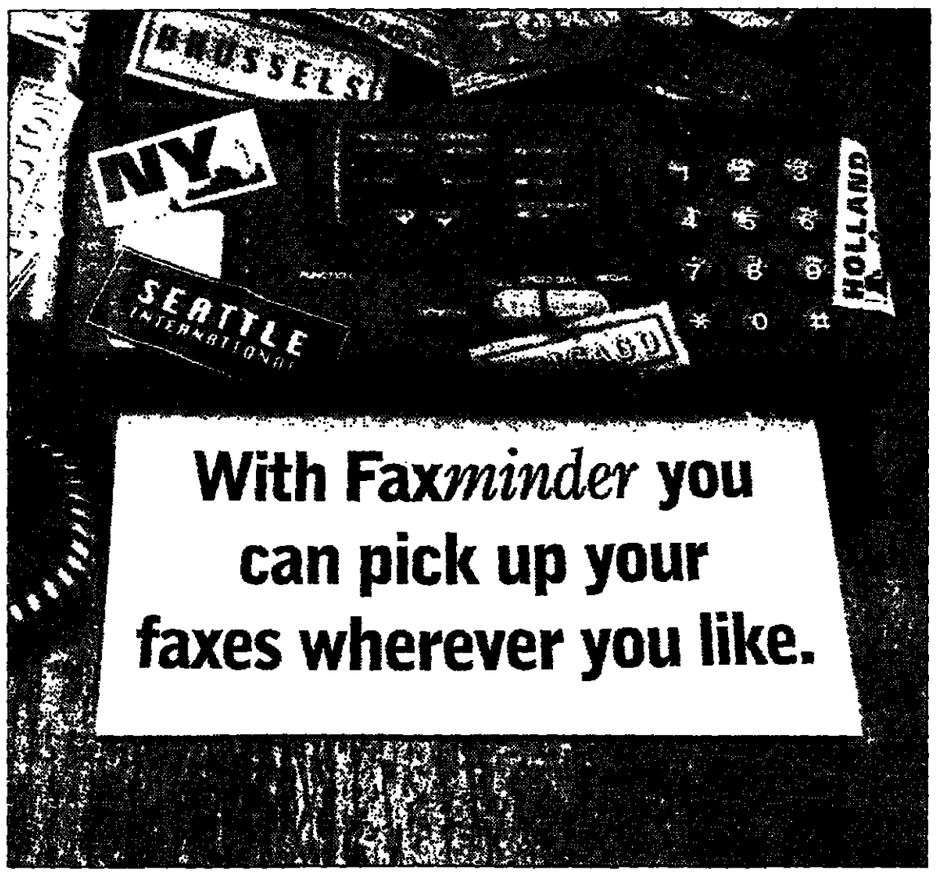
"Judges, let alone politicians, are not the people to make ethical judgments, that is for editors within a system of self-regulation. We have a tough new code of practice, brought in since the Robin Cook revelations.

"It's understandable that the Lord Chancellor says the Government will not legislate on privacy — that would be deeply embarrassing with ministers being accused of protecting themselves. But, if they really believe in press freedom, they should be concerned about the dangers of leaving it to judges. We could finish up with a privacy law by the back door."

Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said he had doubts about prior restraint because it was a form of censorship. He advocated a press freedom law linked to a requirement that newspapers did not harass individuals and that their reports were accurate.

Mr Soley told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that the story of the Home Secretary's son selling cannabis and a recent story by the *News of the World* alleging that a Tory MP's daughter was a prostitute were "clear breaches of the code", which aimed to protect children of famous people.

Michael Fabricant, a Tory MP on the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, agreed in principle with Lord Irvine but said that judges should not be able to intervene to stop an investigation.



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Temptation should stay in prayer, says bishop

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A BISHOP has broken ranks with fellow prelates and spoken out in defiance of plans to remove the word "temptation" from the Lord's Prayer.

The Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, plans to argue against the new modern-language version of the prayer at the Church of England's General Synod.

He is understood to be supported by at least a dozen other bishops in his opposition to the new Lord's Prayer. The laity and some clergy are also expected to object to the liturgists' plans when the synod meets at Church House, Westminster, next week.

The change has come about because the Church is revising its services in time for the millennium, when the widely-disliked *1980 Alternative Service Book* expires. The liturgical commission is recommending that the new communion service has a modern Lord's Prayer alongside a traditional version.

The new prayer deletes "Lead us not into temptation", which has been used since Henry VIII decreed it in 1541, following the form of the prayer in Tyndale's translation of the Greek testament in 1525. The liturgists have substituted the line "Save us from the time of trial." The word "trespass" has also become "sin", and the pronoun "thy" when referring to God has been changed to "your". The liturgists believe the new version is a more accurate translation of the original, which first appears in Greek in Matthew's and Luke's gospels in slightly different versions.

Bishop Nott said: "People will justify the change by arguing that no one knows the Lord's Prayer any more, but that is wrong. The idea of *temptation* is perfectly comprehensible. The time of trial immediately makes a person think of law courts."

The Rev Stephen Trott, a member of the synod and the Prayer Book Society, which promotes the *1662 Book of Common Prayer*, said: "One of the few things we have in common as churches is a traditional language Lord's Prayer. It will cause untold division and confusion if we change to a modern language version. Most people do not expect to be tried, but they do expect to be tempted."

According to today's *Church Times*, a postal survey by a curate in Cambridgeshire suggests most laity prefer the traditional Lord's Prayer, with clergy divided.



The Hampshire police car that ended up in a barber's shop in Portsmouth. The driver fractured his skull

Crash-prone police seek lessons

AFTER an embarrassing spate of car crashes, a police force is asking its chief constable to provide officers with driving lessons (Daniel McGrory writes).

In the 18 months Hampshire police have been driving their fleet of 36 turbo-charged BMWs, there have been 19 accidents. One driver fractured his skull when he lost control of his car and it plunged through the window of a barber's shop in Portsmouth. Others answering emergency calls ended up with their cars in ditches or walls. John Hoddinott, the Chief Constable, has commissioned an urgent review of the training his drivers receive.

Alan Gordon, chairman of the Hampshire branch of the Police Federation, said that the force had only a handful of scrapes when they drove Ford Sierras but since acquiring the BMWs "there has been a marked increase in the number of accidents, and we're not talking about bending a bumper in the police station car park". We are talking to each other about how best to sort this."

Fans told to follow faith, not football

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford is to ask Catholic supporters of Liverpool and Manchester United to choose faith over football.

The teams are due to play at Old Trafford at 3pm on Good Friday, the time when churches commemorate Christ's Passion with a sacred liturgy. The Right Reverend Terence Brain is writing an open letter to the teams' supporters' clubs. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend Patrick Kelly, has written of his concern to the chairman of Liverpool FC. A Premiership spokesman said the 3pm timing was chosen on police advice.

Suspicion over the fairest of them all

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WOMEN in the South of England seem to have a problem getting in touch with their roots, a survey revealed yesterday. A suspiciously high number claim to be natural blondes.

Across the country, 16 per cent of the women questioned said they were natural blondes but the figure rose to 24 per cent in the South. The findings were made during an examination of the market for hair colourants.

"The colour of your hair, whether it is light or dark, does tend to be a perception," a spokeswoman for Mintel, which conducted the research, said. "People sometimes wish it was different."

Sales of hair colourants rose last year by 23 per cent to a total of £125 million. Just under a third of women use a home hair colourant with the North West topping the league table of purchasers. Among users, Londoners appear to fret most over their colouring, with 7 per cent reaching for the bottle at least once a month.

In Wales the home perm is queen, with 14 per cent of women relying on their curlers.

Cricketer's death a cry for help

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE death of David Bairstow, the former England cricketer, might have been a cry for help, a coroner decided yesterday.

Mr Bairstow, 46, had consulted a psychiatrist about depression, and only weeks before he was found hanged at the family home he had taken an overdose of tablets. However, he had told his doctor he was not trying to kill himself.

An inquest at Harrogate, North Yorkshire, was told that the former Yorkshire wicket-keeper had been suffering from stress. His wife, Janet, has cancer and he was due to appear in court on a drink-driving charge after a crash in which he seriously injured his left arm. Mr Bairstow had two children, Jonathan, 8, and Rebecca, 7.

In the hours before his death on January 5, Mr Bairstow, who had been married twice, had been drinking in at least two public houses.

Recording an open verdict, Jeremy Cave, the coroner, said that he was not satisfied that the cricketer had intended to kill himself. "It is a cliché but he had described taking a previous overdose as a cry for help. My own feeling is that this is what this was."

Judge tells rapist he is most evil man he has met

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A JUDGE yesterday described a rapist who attacked a pregnant woman at knifepoint as the most evil human being he had met.

David Cliffe's 24-year-old victim, who was five months' pregnant, suffered numerous injuries during the 60-minute ordeal. She escaped by jumping naked from her first-floor bedroom window.

Bradford Crown Court was told that Cliffe, who had a previous conviction for raping an 80-year-old wheelchair-bound woman, had become aroused after listening to adult chat lines.

Judge Alastair McCallum jailed Cliffe, 33, for life. He ordered that Cliffe serve a minimum of 18 years.

Cliffe had admitted two charges of rape and one of wounding. Andrew Dallas, for the prosecution, said the attack happened after the single woman returned to her home in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, in the early hours of November 2. Her two children were staying with their grandmother.

During the night Cliffe broke in and unlocked the front door so he could make a quick escape. He turned off the electricity and cut the telephone wire. The woman woke up to find him bending over her bed, armed with a kitchen knife. He seized her by the neck and forced her on to her knees. She blacked out and Cliffe then repeatedly raped her and carried out other serious sexual offences.

Afterwards, while Cliffe looked for a cigarette, she leapt naked from the window, cutting her feet on broken glass and fracturing a heel bone. Cliffe was arrested two days later after police found his credit card in the woman's home.

The court was told that her baby was unharmed, but her long-term relationship with the father of the child had ended because of the attack.

Tomorrow in the nine section SATURDAY TIMES

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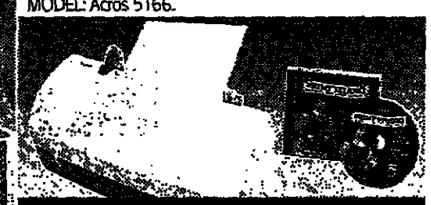
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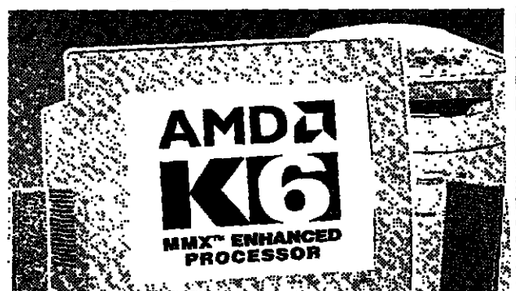


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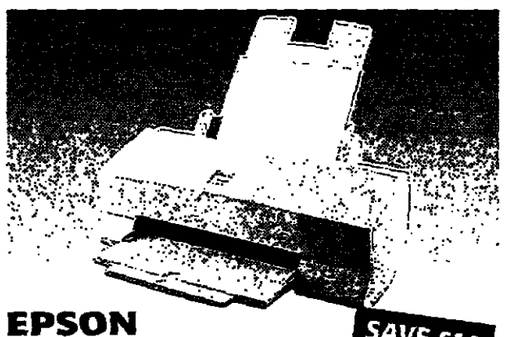
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ANTHONY UPTON



Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, right, listening to Liz Austin of Shrewsbury Health Trust yesterday

Dobson starts a class war to improve health

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday launched a public health drive to cut the number of deaths from cancer, heart disease, suicides and accidents by 15,000 a year.

These four targets will replace the 27 set by the Conservatives. They are at the heart of the Government's drive to reduce the inequalities of health caused by poverty, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told the Commons.

He wants cancer deaths reduced by a fifth from the present level of 32,500; heart disease deaths reduced by a third from 25,000; and suicides reduced by 800 through better mental health care. The aim is also to cut the two million accidents that need medical treatment each year by a fifth, which should reduce the toll by several thousand.

Launching the Green Paper *Our Healthier Nation*, Mr Dobson said that too many people were dying at too young an age, and inequalities of wealth were to blame: "Poor people are ill more often and die sooner — and that's the greatest inequality of them all: the inequality between the living and the dead."

Although the Government is to carry out action programmes aimed at reducing the level of smoking, overeating and alcohol consumption while encouraging people to take more exercise, Mr Dobson made it clear that Labour believed the conditions in which people live are at least as important in reducing illness and death. "In nearly every case the highest incidence of illness is experienced by the worst-off," the Green Paper says.

Much of the public health strategy involves policies that are in the pipeline and there is little extra money on offer. Food poisoning would be reduced by the new Food Standards Agency. Spending £900 million from council house sales, which had been frozen by the Conservatives, would improve housing and reduce homelessness. A minimum wage would mean the poor having more to spend on food and heating. A campaign against crime would reduce depression and suicide. An integrated transport policy would reduce air pollution. "By preventing avoidable illnesss we can enable the NHS to concentrate its resources on treating those conditions that cannot yet be prevented," the Green Paper says.

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said he was surprised that the Government had cut so many of the Conservatives' health targets, especially the one for reducing the level of Aids. "All four of the targets chosen by the Government are easier than the ones we set," he said.

Far more ill-health was caused by smoking, overdrinking, bad diet and lack of exercise, Mr Maples said. "The Government must not give people an alibi for their own bad habits by allowing them to blame circumstances."

The Green Paper will be the subject of consultation during the next three months and the Government aims to produce a White Paper in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the NHS in July.

☐ *Our Healthier Nation* (Stationery Office: £10.30)

ICY GRAVE YIELDS CLUE TO 1918 FLU

Scientists are hoping to unlock the lethal secret of the flu epidemic that swept the world after the First World War, killing 20 million people (Nigel Hawkes writes). American pathologists have isolated the virus from the body of an Alaskan victim buried in permafrost at Brevig Mission, a tiny settlement that lost 85 per cent of its population in a single week in November 1918.

The Brevig victims are the first to provide RNA — the genetic material of viruses — from exhumed bodies. The specimens were collected by Johan Hultin, who exhumed 11 bodies in the mass grave that holds all 72 victims. He sent tiny samples to the US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, DC, which was able to extract fragments of RNA from one sample.

Breast implant study rebuts disease link

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SILICONE breast implants are unlikely to cause disease, according to the most comprehensive study of women who have had them inserted.

The researchers found that although a small number of women with implants were hospitalised with conditions that have been linked by campaigners to leakage of silicone, the proportion was not significantly higher than is found among those who have not had implants.

The work was carried out in Sweden among the 7,442 women there who had received an implant between 1964 and 1993, and 3,353 women who had undergone breast reductions.

The authors, from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, say in the *British Medical Journal* today that previous studies in North America could have been distorted by extensive publicity, and litigations increased the numbers who claimed to be suffering as a result of an implant. Since little publicity has occurred in Sweden, they argue that women there are less likely to have been influenced.

The study found that 29 of the women given implants needed hospital treatment for diseases of connective tissues such as tendons. From the same base figure for those who have not had implants, 25.5 women would be expected to contract the same disease. Among the women who had breast reductions, involving no silicone implants, there appeared to be a slightly higher risk of connective tissue disease, with 14 needing hospital treatment, compared with 10.5 expected among the population at large.

The researchers admit that only those who were hospitalised with the disease could be identified. They say, however, that the accuracy of diagnosis in hospitals must be better and that anecdotal evidence from women who did not seek medical help was not reliable.

"Our data add to the emerging consensus that there is no important association between breast implants and connective tissue disease," the report says.

Cyrus Cooper, Professor of Rheumatology at Southampton University, writes in the journal that it is difficult to see how any further epidemiological studies can shed more light on the issue.

An independent review group on silicone implants set up last summer by Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Health Minister, is due to report soon.

Margot Cameron, who runs a support group for women who claim they have become ill after silicone implants, said the new survey was irrelevant. "We have never said that we suffer from connective tissue disease but from some kind of silicone poisoning. This is chemical poisoning but we can't get a true diagnosis." She added that 2,500 "seriously injured" women from among the estimated 150,000 women in Britain with breast implants had joined her group.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cannabis cautions rise to 40,000

The number of cautions given for possession of cannabis has increased almost tenfold in a decade, from 4,048 in 1986 to 40,391 by 1995, Home Office figures disclose. The number of offenders actually prosecuted has doubled, from 11,493 to 24,386. Cautions for possession of cannabis with intent to supply rose 16 fold, but prosecutions were up just 2½ times.

Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West, who backs drug licensing, said that the figures showed that possession was being decriminalised already because the number of cautions was outstripping prosecutions.

Queen's flight

The Queen is to lease an American-made Sikorsky helicopter to replace the two ageing RAF Wessex helicopters she currently uses, Buckingham Palace said. The deal with a private firm in Blackbushe airport, Hampshire, will save £1.8 million annually.

£2m wildlife plan

Farmers will get an extra £2 million over two years to help wildlife by reducing land cultivation. New payments will be available in half of England's 22 designated environmentally sensitive areas, and payments will be increased in five other areas.

Fraudster jailed

A man was jailed for three months by Torbay magistrates for claiming £150 a week in benefits for his mother for 16 months after she died. Owen Kelly, 59, of Torbay, whose mother Grace had Alzheimer's disease, spent most of the money on alcohol.

Brain wave

Scientists at the University of California at San Francisco believe that they have discovered the brain protein that causes the rare degenerative illness Gertsmann-Straussler-Scheinker disease. It may be involved in other brain illnesses.

Nurse in clear

The Crown Prosecution Service has dropped a case against Kathleen Atkinson, 47, a former sister at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, after inconsistencies in witness statements. The case involved the death of intensive care patients.

Peacocks caught

Five stray peacocks that have been wrecking gardens in a Gloucestershire village have been caught. Sue Chick, of Winson, trapped them in a shed as they were feeding. The two cocks and three hens, probably from a country estate, will be found new homes.

هكذا من الاصل



A kingfisher dives for a minnow, then regains its riverbank ledge. Cleaner rivers are encouraging a return of the bird, which can spot a small fish from 30 yards. Photographs: Charlie Hamilton James

The kingfisher returns to dazzle Britain's riverbanks

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

FOR anyone who has never seen the flash of iridescent blue or emerald green of a kingfisher darting from a river bank, there is good news. Cleaner rivers and more sensitive management of bank vegetation are encouraging a gradual comeback for Britain's most brilliantly coloured birds.

Kingfishers are still scarcer in many parts of England and Wales than they were 25 years ago but in Scotland they are returning. An increase in their numbers on the River Clyde has been put down to cleaning of the river in the 1970s and more pairs have been nesting on the Tay and in the Great Glen, where few or none have been recorded.

Kingfishers need clean, shallow, slow-moving freshwater, with thriving numbers of small fish on which to feed, and vertical banks of soft mud in which to dig their tunnel-like nests.

The iridescent beauty of the birds, whose total population in Britain is put at no more than 3,300 to 5,500 pairs, is celebrated in a new collection of photographs published this week.

The pictures were taken by Charlie Hamilton James, an award-winning photographer who works regularly as a wildlife cameraman for the BBC Natural History Unit, based in Bristol.

In it he explains that the kingfisher's hallmark plumage is the result of a complex structure in the layers of its feathers which filters out certain colours, reflecting only blue. The bird can also appear to be a rich emerald green, with only a slight change in the angle on which light falls. They are able to spot small fish such as minnows and sticklebacks from 30 yards away.

"They can also deal with refraction, where light is bent as it enters the water, giving objects in the water the appearance of being in a slighty different location," Mr Hamilton James writes. "They must correct the refraction as they need to be totally accurate when diving; this is probably learnt during the first few weeks after leaving the nest."

Kingfishers, which only weigh an ounce, breed between March and August, with the female usually laying five to seven eggs.

☐ *Kingfishers* by Charlie Hamilton James (Colin Baxter; £8).

Twitchers wing their way in wake of rare starling



The Spotless Starling, common in Portugal and Spain, had made a first recorded visit to Britain

ONE flight to the Isles of Scilly, by a bird never recorded in Britain before, has led to a dozen other flights a day as hundreds of bird-watchers pack into the nine-seater planes run by an airbus service on the mainland.

The Spotless Starling is virtually identical to its native cousin but its rarity here makes it irresistible to "twitchers". *Sternus unicolour* is usually found around the Mediterranean and is common in Spain and Portugal.

Despite its name, its winter plumage does feature spots, although they are smaller than those of the north European species. The bird's appearance among the chimney-pots on the island of St Mary's this week has triggered a minor tourist boom.

At this time of year, Skybus would usually send its planes to St Mary's three or four times a day. Now it is running up to ten extra flights a day.

A nine-seater airbus is having to put on extra flights. Simon de Bruxelles joins the rush

"They all want to fly out, see the bird and fly back in the evening," said Skybus's Mike Vigar at Land's End airport. "Whoever spotted this bird first can have a pint on us."

Chris Harbard, spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "This must be one of the most difficult birds to spot and identify because in a flock of starlings it would look almost indistinguishable. I can only imagine that some bored bird-watcher took the time and trouble to examine the size of the spots."

He said of the rush of twitchers: "In the front of the queue there will be people in the absolute top echelons of bird-watchers who will have, or will be approaching, the holy grail of 500 species on their British list.

"It doesn't matter that they might have seen this bird everywhere when they were on holiday in Spain. The important thing is that it is in this country and they can't take the risk that one of their friends will add it to their list and they won't."

Steve Rogers, a bird-watcher who runs a binocular shop in Truro, made a successful visit to St Mary's on Wednesday. "I would reckon that about 1,500 of the country's keenest twitchers will have to see this bird," he said. "It's like a stampede. To see it is one of the highlights of my twitching career. Scilly is very popular with twitchers but the season is usually in autumn and spring. At this time of year, to get a 'first time in Britain' is remarkable."

The rush has not meant extra business for all the island's traders. At the bakery, Terry Parsons said: "The bird is performing very well, exposing itself to the bird-watchers. We have had a bit of an increase in trade, people popping in for a coffee or a bite to eat but they are not hanging around.

"I heard there were a crowd who came over on the helicopter, went and saw the bird for 10 or 15 minutes, then flew back again. Perhaps if the bird was playing a bit more hard to spot, we'd do better."

The immature male specimen shows no desire to abandon its new home. In the binocular shop Mr Rogers said: "It might migrate back later, fall to a bird of prey or get eaten by a cat. There are a lot of cats on St Mary's."

Overfishing turns seas into marine junkyard

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE world's fish catches are declining in quality and the seas are in danger of becoming a marine junkyard, scientists say.

A new study has shown that the worldwide catch is shifting towards lower-quality fish, instead of long-lived fish at the top of the food chain, as the ecosystem of the oceans is impoverished by over-exploitation.

The short-term result may be an increase in catches because there are more of these lesser-quality fish but if the trend continues all that will be left is the lowest form of life — plankton.

The study, published in *Science* by a team led by Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia, examines the "trophic level" of the fish species caught over the past 45 years. The trophic level is the position occupied by each species in the food chain, with plankton representing level one at the bottom and predators such as cod and haddock at level four or higher. A total of 220 species were classified and their catch examined between 1950 and 1994.

Over that period the average trophic level of the fish caught fell from 3.3 to 3.1. The trend was particularly apparent in the northeast Atlantic. If it continues, Dr Pauly says, "we might end up with a marine junkyard dominated by plankton".

Although there are more fish in the lower trophic levels, the statistics show that that does not mean a sustained increase in catches. The reason, Dr Pauly says, is that commercial removal of those at the top of the food chain gives their competitors a chance to expand. In the Black Sea there has been a huge increase in jellyfish as their economically valuable competitors have been removed by fishermen.

The survey results, he says, are further evidence of overfishing. "The trends are unsustainable," he says. "It is likely the continuation of present trends will lead to widespread fisheries collapses."

The answer may be to define certain areas of the oceans as no-fishing zones, a plan backed by the British fishing industry. This enables the balance between predators and prey to be re-established.

GOLDEN OLDIE

A goldfish named Tish may be the world's oldest. Its owners, pensioners Hilda and Gordon Hand, from Thirsk, North Yorkshire, say their son won it at a fair in July 1956. The recognised world-record holder, named Fred, died in Worthing in 1980, aged 41. A spokesman for *The Guinness Book of Records* said: "We have written to the Hands asking for more documentation." Mrs Hand said: "Tish spends a bit more time on the bottom of the bowl than he used to but he is still pretty lively."



Allies plan 200 air raids daily

THE Pentagon is planning a sustained air campaign to destroy key military installations in Iraq if President Saddam Hussein fails to allow unconditional access to United Nations weapons inspectors.

Despite congressional calls for an even tougher strike strategy, to bring down Saddam, military planners in Washington are working on an initial plan that would target Republican Guard units, Defence Ministry sites and bunkers used for the manufacture of chemical and biological weapons.

What officials describe as a very heavy bombing campaign is designed to force the Iraqi leader to bend to the international will and allow the UN Special Commission (Unscom) teams unfettered access to presidential palaces and other storage and weapons sites. America and Britain would pursue a campaign of 200 strikes a day for four days.

In the long term, assuming that Baghdad offers no resistance, America has plans to reconstitute more effective weapons inspections teams and is aiming to expand the no-fly zone to prevent Iraqi flights over the entire country.

A wider strategy, which Madeleine Albright, the US

Saddam's troops face relentless bombing, writes Tom Rhodes in Washington

Secretary of State, offered querulous Arab states last week and one that will be reinforced by William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, during his tour of the Middle East starting on Sunday, is that the US hopes to weaken Saddam's security apparatus and power base as well as his ability to threaten neighbouring states.

Ms Albright made clear during her visit that Washington would not support the lifting of sanctions against Iraq until Saddam either introduces a democratic regime or has been replaced.

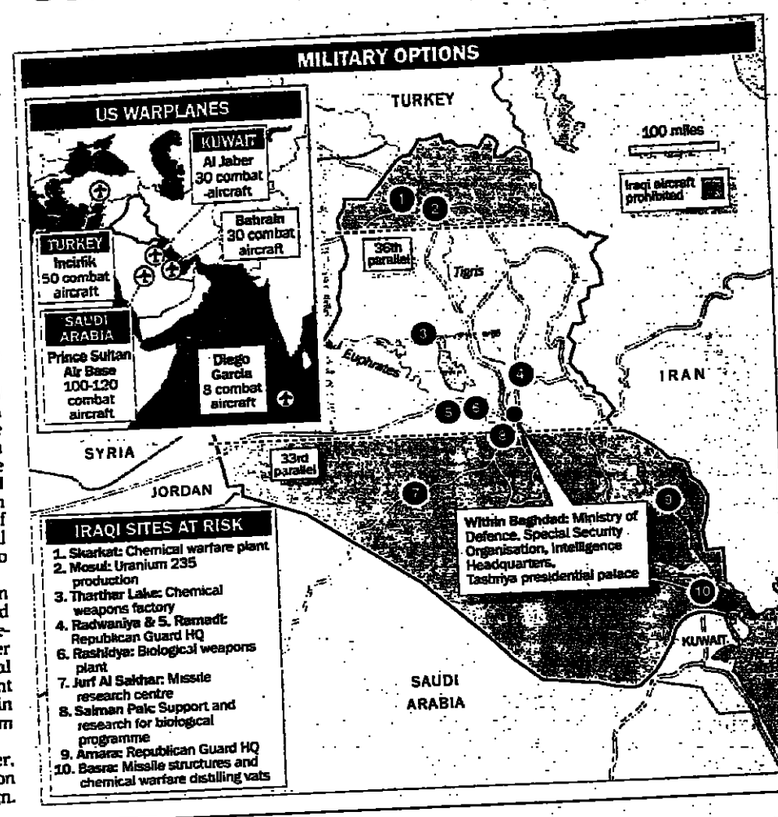
The attacks are expected to start in about two weeks; until then, diplomatic efforts by the US Administration, Britain and other influential countries such as Russia and France are expected to continue.

Senior national security aides privately are pessimistic that Saddam will pull back from the brink as he did in November. They are also faced with a public that supports air strikes, has no stomach for a repeat of the Gulf War and believes any attack should result in the end of Saddam's regime. A recent poll indicated that 68 per cent of Americans believe the Iraqi leader should be toppled by military intervention. Many in the Middle East are also wary that an attack should not enhance the Baghdad regime as the Gulf War did in 1991.

Leading Republicans and senior members of the foreign policy establishment have joined in calling for a much tougher battle plan to include the possibility of ground troops, Iraq's expulsion from the UN, the indictment of Saddam as a war criminal and the blockading of Basra to halt illicit oil exports.

Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, said that until Saddam was removed the West would never have any control over regional stability. There was no point in putting Saddam "back in his cage and then have him back out in six months".

For the moment, however, Washington has little option but to pursue its air campaign.



Blair anxious to explain why force is needed

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

TONY BLAIR believes that the British public must be persuaded and convinced of the necessity for military action against Iraq before any final decisions are taken. This reflects a subtle, but important, shift in the British Government's tactics and rhetoric over the past week.

The Prime Minister argues that there are big differences in public opinion on either side of the Atlantic. Whereas, in America the majority of the public favours strong action, and according to a new poll says it will support the use of force to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, the British appear much less bellicose. Therefore, in the Downing Street view, the public has to be educated about the need for action over the next two or three weeks while the build-up of forces continues in the Gulf and diplomatic efforts are pursued.

Some of Mr Blair's advisers were concerned earlier this week about the criticism in Britain of his description of Saddam last Saturday as "an evil dictator". They were worried that this might sound too belligerent. The Blair camp is aware of the criticism that Margaret Thatcher faced in 1986, including from within her own Cabinet, over the decision to allow American planes to fly from British bases to bomb Libya.

Mr Blair and his advisers decided that the next couple of weeks, before any military action can be taken, should be used not just for intensive diplomacy but also for a high-profile educational campaign to prepare the public for the case to use force, if necessary.

This shift in tactics has been marked by the release on Wednesday of the Foreign Office dossier about Iraq's build-up of chemical and biological weapons and its nuclear ambitions. Mr Blair repeatedly highlighted the growing danger from Iraqi weapons of mass destruction in his television interviews yesterday. He argued that Saddam was an actual "threat to world peace".

Mr Blair has been careful to present military action as a last resort, more in sorrow than in anger, and he has emphasised that the preference of both America and Britain is still a diplomatic solution. He has said that the threat of military action is "not macho or a test of international virility".

The British Government has been very careful to emphasise that the objective of any military action should be to secure compliance with successive United Nations resolutions about full inspection of Iraqi sites where weapons of mass destruction may be under development. Mr Blair and other ministers have carefully emphasised that military action would not be aimed at getting rid of Saddam, however welcome that might be as a by-product.

Nonetheless, Mr Blair has left no doubt of his belief that the diplomatic initiatives being pursued by Russia and France are unlikely to succeed, and the international community has to emphasise that force will be used within a defined period, probably a couple of weeks, to fulfil the aims of the UN resolution.

PETER RIDDELL

Paris rejects any role in armed response

FRANCE

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FRANCE does not intend to take part in any military action against Iraq and will not provide support, Hubert Védrine, the French Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

He told Europe 1 radio: "France is trying to obtain a solution by diplomatic means. I have not given up hope that we will succeed." M Védrine said that there had been the first signs of flexibility from Iraq on giving access to United Nations weapons inspectors, but that that was not enough.

According to *Le Monde*, Paris was still waiting for the results of Wednesday's two-hour meeting between Bertrand Dufourq, the senior French diplomat, and President Saddam Hussein. M Dufourq, who left Paris for Baghdad on Monday after a briefing from President Chirac, had been due to return to France on Wednesday night but extended his stay in order to meet Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

M Védrine said in the Senate that a military strike against Iraq would "inflict serious loss of human life without challenging Saddam's power". Force risked creating a shockwave throughout the Middle East just when outside countries, particularly America, had shown their impotence in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

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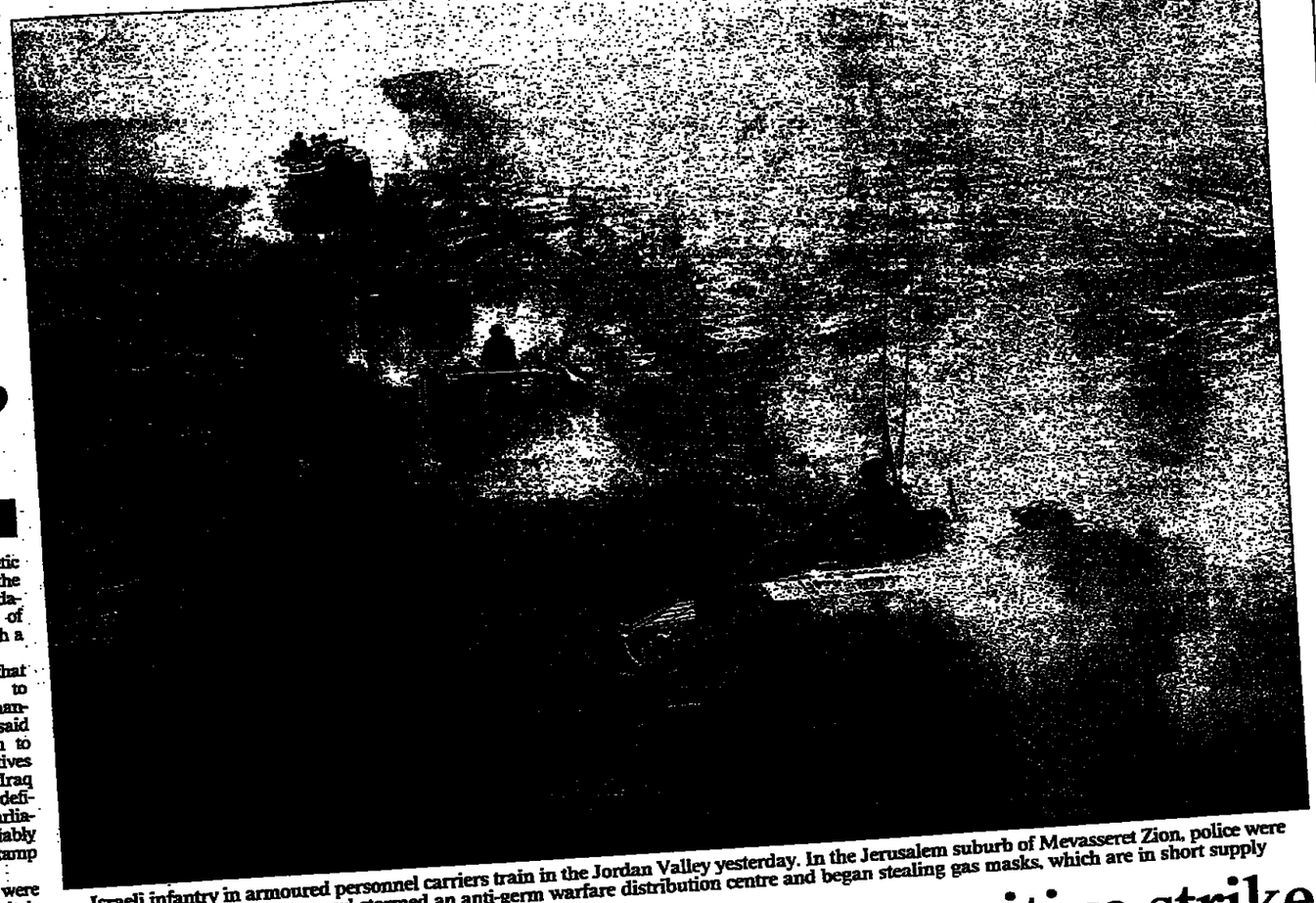
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JACQUELINE LARMA / AP

Israeli infantry in armoured personnel carriers train in the Jordan Valley yesterday. In the Jerusalem suburb of Mevasseret Zion, police were called when an angry crowd stormed an anti-germ warfare distribution centre and began stealing gas masks, which are in short supply

Saddam 'to release all Arab prisoners'

BAGHDAD

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein last night reportedly ordered the immediate release of all Arab prisoners in an attempt to rally regional support. It was unclear whether the amnesty included hundreds of Kuwaitis missing since Iraq's 1990 invasion and occupation of the emirate. Baghdad denies holding them.

France and Russia, which oppose the use of force against Iraq, said their envoys sent to Baghdad to pursue a diplomatic solution had made good progress. But while Saddam was edging towards a compromise, there was no sign that he was preparing for a genuine climbdown. He appeared to be holding out for an easing of United Nations sanctions in return for opening presidential palaces to inspection, a proposal itself hedged by conditions unacceptable to Washington and London.

The amnesty was announced after Saddam held talks in Baghdad with Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, who has said that the use of force against Iraq would be unacceptable. Saddam also met Ismail Cem, the Turkish Foreign Minister.

Iraq gave no details of how many prisoners would be freed or their nationalities. "The decision covered all convicted prisoners and all those facing charges," the Iraqi news agency said.

Last month, Saddam released 50 Jordanian prisoners in an effort to win over public opinion in Jordan which, although normally sympathetic to Iraq, was angered by the execution of four young Jordanians who were accused of smuggling car spares worth a few hundred pounds.

In another sign that Saddam was preparing to continue a policy of brinkmanship, the Iraqi parliament said it would not meet again to discuss diplomatic initiatives until next week. Whether Iraq backs down or remains defiant may emerge in parliament, as Saddam invariably uses it as a rubber-stamp institution.

The Iraqi armed forces were on maximum alert, hospitals were told to conserve blood and senior officers and Baath party officials in the restive Shia south of the country were told to withdraw their families in case of an insurrection if the country were attacked, according to dissidents.

Meanwhile, Saddam's call for a million volunteers for a civilian force was reportedly being largely ignored.

☐ **Kuwait City:** Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, expressed his "deep sympathy" to the relatives of those 600 people removed from Kuwait at the end of the Gulf War and still missing (Michael Binyon writes). Kuwait is deeply sceptical that Saddam is ready to release prisoners, having heard no word of them for seven years despite repeated Red Cross and other inquiries. Many in Kuwait assume that they are dead.

Matthew Parris, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Yeltsin: confident of solution

Yeltsin 'will not allow attack'

FROM RICHARD BERSTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin, predicting yesterday that the Iraq crisis would be resolved peacefully, said confidently he would "not allow" America to use force against Baghdad.

The Kremlin leader said Russia was building an international consensus against airstrikes and hinted that Britain may yet

RUSSIA

come round to Moscow's view.

Speaking to Italian journalists ahead of a visit to Rome, Mr Yeltsin said he was preoccupied "day and night" with averting a Gulf conflict and was convinced his efforts would be rewarded.

"I am an optimist," he said. "We must not allow a strike by force, an American strike, and we will not allow it. I told Clinton this.

"One cannot say with confidence that the situation concerning Iraq is all right, and no splash is possible. But the tension is beginning to decline."

Cook wins backing for big punitive strike

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN KUWAIT CITY

BRITAIN

ROBIN COOK yesterday won vital Saudi backing for allied preparations to confront President Saddam Hussein and a warning from the Saudi Royal Family that the Iraqi leader faced "dire consequences" unless he backed down.

Although he neither sought nor received a promise of military help or the use of Saudi bases, Mr Cook was assured that Saudi Arabia would hold Saddam responsible if the West launched airstrikes against Iraq. Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Foreign Minister, said after talks with Mr Cook that both sides agreed on the necessity of Iraq's unconditional and immediate compliance with the United Nations resolutions. "They constitute the only way to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people," the Prince said.

Mr Cook, delighted that he appeared to have won an even more resounding endorsement than Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State who was here on Monday, insisted that Britain would continue an intensive search for a diplomatic solution. "but Saddam must not underestimate our resolve", he said.

Mr Cook also made clear that the allied strategy in any military strike would be a massive bombardment that would so cripple Saddam's forces, on which he relied to stay in power, that a revolt would succeed in overthrowing him. British officials will not outline targeting or strategy, but say that all Gulf countries have rejected pinprick attacks that leave Saddam unharmed, and want to see him removed from power.

The Foreign Secretary confronted persistent questioning here on why the West was ready to take action against Iraq but not against Israel's rejection of international agreements. He said: "I have repeatedly condemned the Israeli Government for obstructing the peace process. In particular, we have condemned the expansion of settlements by [Binyamin] Netanyahu and the obstruction of movement of the Palestinian people."

Killer spores blown on the wind

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

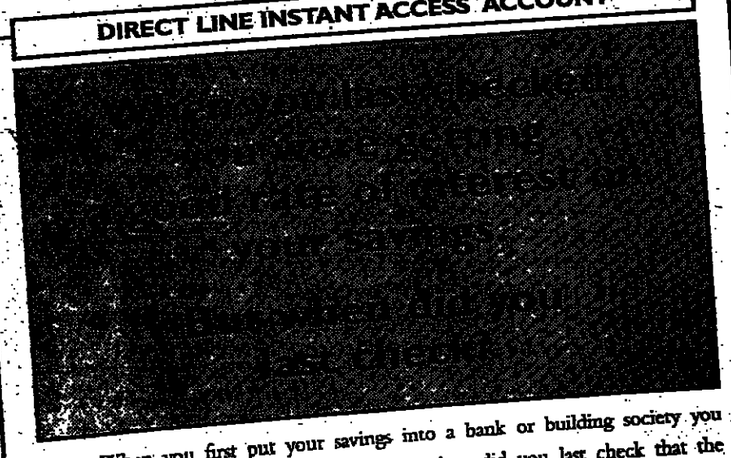
ANTHRAX is deadly and persistent, and a little goes a long way. When a very small amount of anthrax spores — perhaps no more than a few thousandths of a gram — escaped from a Soviet biological warfare plant in 1979, they killed 96 people down wind. Sheep grazing 30 miles away also died.

The anthrax agent is a rod-shaped bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*, which forms spores easily carried by the wind. The infective dose is so small that one gram of anthrax, containing billions of spores, is enough in principle to kill ten million people.

Inhaled into the lungs, the bacillus causes a flu-like infection combined with tiredness, headache, shortness of breath, cough and upper respiratory congestion. Symptoms appear in two to three days and develop into lung haemorrhages and breathing difficulties that are invariably fatal unless treated with antibiotics, such as penicillin or tetracycline. A vaccination can provide protection.

Neither vaccines nor antibiotics are likely to be available to any Iraqis exposed to anthrax spores released from storage areas after a US attack. Since the spores are living organisms, only moderate temperatures are needed to kill them, and the US believes that its specially designed bombs will be effective. But short of real-life tests, it is impossible to be certain.

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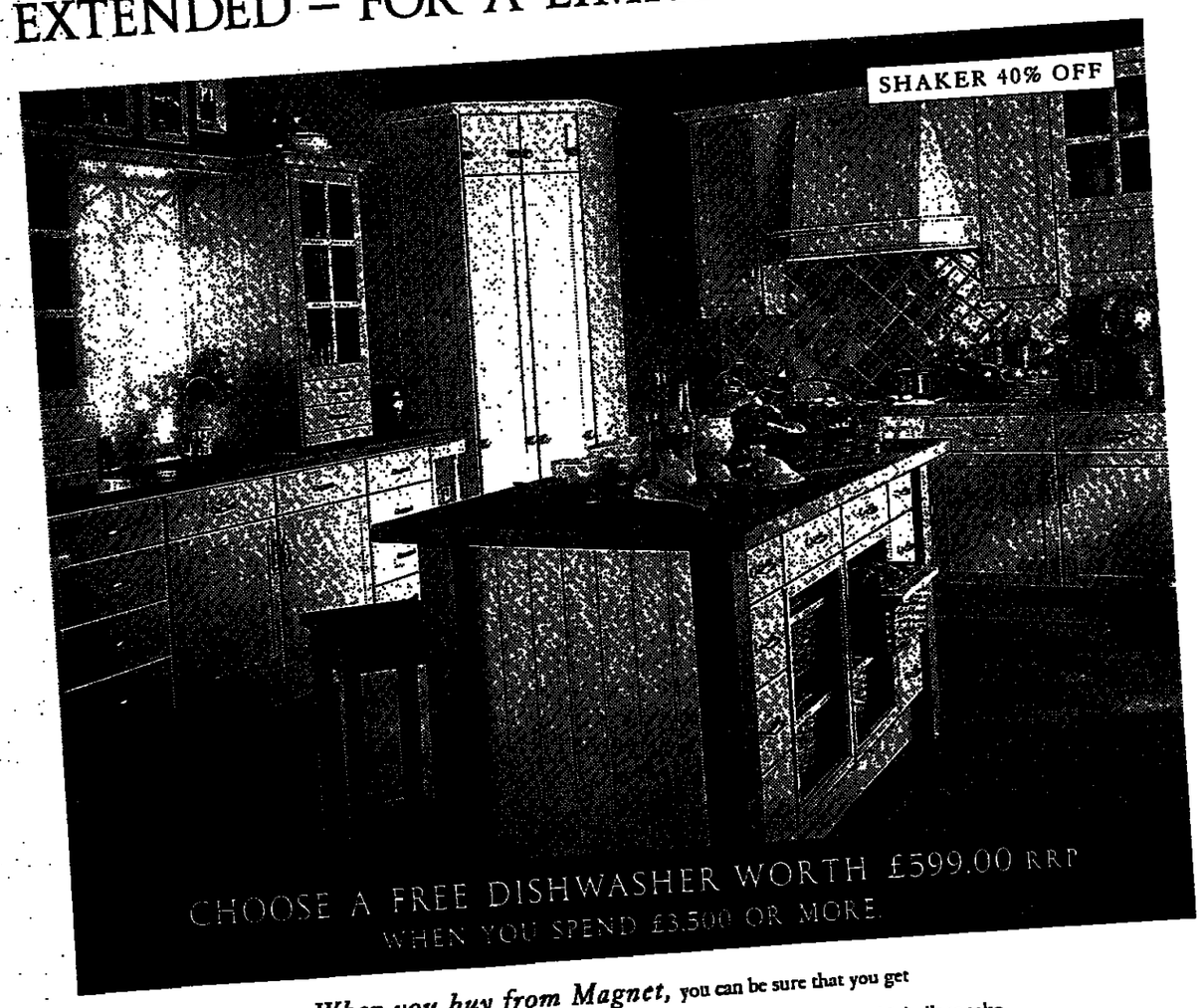
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TI 19

Kohl denounced by jobless in day of protests

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ANGRY Germans stormed job centres throughout the country yesterday in protest at the Government's policies on unemployment, which has broken all postwar records.

More than 300,000 joined the dole queue over the past month and the seasonally unadjusted figure has now swollen to 4.82 million.

"Who has betrayed us? The Christian Democrats!" chanted workers marching through Saarbrücken. They were joined by French protesters from across the border, who have been advising the Germans on how to turn social unrest about unemployment into a mass movement.

But the German demonstrations were low-key, the most effective being the forced occupation of job centres in Oldenburg and a dozen other towns. Factories were picketed as was the stock exchange in Düsseldorf. In all, there were protests in about 250 cities and towns and they are expected to gather force in the run-up to the September general election. "Our intention is to make unemployment the focus of a new movement," said Angelika Beier at the protest co-ordination centre in Bielefeld.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has plainly been put on the defensive. His Government yesterday presented a make-shift programme to create jobs for the long-term unemployed, using the meagre funds of local councils. The arguments presented in parliament yesterday by ministers suggested that, first, the figures were not too bad; seasonally adjusted, one could even talk of a slight improvement. Second, accelerating growth would soon translate into more jobs.

But there was no mistaking the Government's nervousness. Herr Kohl had to concede that an unemployment rate of 12.6 per cent was not a triumph. Only recently, he had to abandon his pledge to find two million jobs by 2000.

The frictions are growing between the ruling Christian Democrats and their junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats, who are resisting any attempts to subsidise new jobs. Herr Kohl's right-hand man, Wolfgang Schaüble, is ready to take a strong joint initiative with the opposition Social Democrats to ease unemployment. But Herr Kohl is reluctant to embark on any deal with the Opposition. The result is confusion in government.

☐ **Smoking vote:** The German parliament rejected by 336-256 a Bill to ban smoking in public buildings and transport and restrict it at the workplace. *(Reuters)*

WOLFGANG KUMM / EPA



Jobless Germans in Berlin protest outside the employment office after figures confirmed that 4.8 million people, a new postwar record, were out of work

City 'could be punished for life' because of euro delay

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

LONDON'S financial markets risk being "punished for life" if they fail to prepare enough for the launch of the single currency next January, the European Union Commissioner in charge of the project said last night.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy also added his voice to a growing chorus of warnings from Brussels that Britain faced political and economic damage from the Government's decision to stay out of the euro at least until the next Parliament. "You cannot lead from the touchline," he said.

In a speech to the City's LIFFE financial futures exchange, M de Silguy warned the financiers that they must rise to the challenge of preparing for the "historic" transition to the euro. "This must be at the heart of financial markets' strategic planning. In the words of [Mikhail] Gorbachev, which apply equally to Europe's financial markets, 'he who arrives late is punished for life'," he said.

The French Commissioner, whose role is Brussels' chief promoter and publicist for monetary union, expanded on warnings last week by Jacques Santer and Sir Leon Brittan, the President and Vice-President of the Commission, on the likelihood that Britain would lose power and influence in the EU.

"There is no getting away from reality," M de Silguy said. "Not being in monetary union means being outside ... Non-participation raises questions which will become more serious the longer you do not participate."

He listed the likely economic consequences. Britain would have no voice in the policy decisions of the future European Central Bank, the guardian of the euro. Sterling probably would have to maintain higher interest rates than those in the euro zone.

British companies would suffer a competitive loss by having to bear the cost and exchange risk of non-participation in a project that would encompass its main trading partners. Britain may also lose investment from outside the EU.

Although the EU has welcomed the Government's approval of the euro "in principle", officials and ministers are wasting few opportunities to point out the expected costs of delaying the decision on British entry.

Sir Leon argued last week that Tony Blair had been given a taste of the price of staying out when he failed in December to win a seat on the future "Euro-X" council, which will co-ordinate policy inside the future "Euroland". Sir Leon urged the Government to make an early commitment to join by 2002, when euro notes and coins are due to enter circulation. The Government is being told that it can expect no favours from its partners until it agrees to share the risks that the others are taking with the launch of the project.

EU officials reject, as wildly unrealistic, suggestions that the euro states could agree to reserve a place for Britain on the six-member central bank board. The seats, with the post of bank president, are already the subject of intense manoeuvring among the likely 11 future euro members.

British ministers say they are confident that the damage will be limited by the influence Britain enjoys as a big EU state with a thriving economy and by the goodwill being generated by the Government's strong pro-European stance.



De Silguy: interest rates "would be higher"

Yeltsin backs top two reformers

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday dismissed doubts about the future of his two reformist First Deputy Prime Ministers, Anatoli Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, pledging to keep them in their jobs until 2000, the year his presidential term comes to an end.

"I will push aside all those who are attacking them. I will not allow anyone to touch them." Mr Yeltsin said during a meeting with Mr Nemtsov.

It was the clearest message of support for them since they were both demoted two months ago. Mr Chubais lost his additional post of Minister of Finance after his involvement in a scandal over advance payments for a book. Mr Nemtsov, who was not involved in the scandal, still suffered the consequences, losing the Ministry of Fuel and Energy.

The two ministers' influence appeared to dwindle still further after Mr Yeltsin expressed his strong dissatisfaction with the progress of reforms during a new year address to the nation. He has also criticised the Government for its failure to fulfil a pledge to pay all state sector wage arrears by the end of last year.

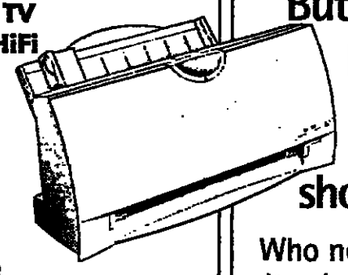
On February 17, Mr Yeltsin is due to make his annual address to both houses of parliament, an occasion which is expected to set the tone of government policy for the coming year. He has suggested that a Cabinet reshuffle could take place immediately afterwards.

In recent weeks, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, has emerged from the shadows, where he had languished for the past nine months. His unquestionable loyalty has ensured his survival over the past six years. He is also regarded as far more acceptable by the opposition than either of his two younger colleagues. But the Chubais-Nemtsov team is held in high regard among foreign investors, who see them as guarantors of Russia's transition to the free market.

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Clinton is hailed as a Caesar in Italy

BY RICHARD OWEN

AN Italian newspaper has come to the rescue of President Clinton over his sexual behaviour, claiming that "assertion of virility" had been an attribute of leadership since the days of Julius Caesar.

***Corriere della Sera* said there were "many analogies between Clinton's America and ancient Rome". Caesar was second to none in his sexual appetites, it said. "He was the greatest general in Roman history, but he had his vices."**

The paper said that Caesar, like Mr Clinton, was "a serial adulterer". His mistresses included the wives of statesmen.

***Corriere della Sera* said Caesar's subjects were not scandalised by his peccadillos, but saw them as "a source of national pride". What really mattered — as with Mr Clinton — were his political abilities and achievements. It noted that until Augustus, who took a more severe view on morality, sexual misbehaviour was judged within the family.**

The paper said the US public was "at last beginning to move away from the Augustan model and closer to the Caesarean model ... Perhaps they might even appreciate their President for his Caesar-like virility".

Pressure on Prodi to close US bases

Defence Minister promises stricter controls on low-level flights, reports **Richard Owen**

ITALY'S Defence Minister, Beniamino Andreatta, announced yesterday that the Government was preparing "new measures on flight security", including tighter controls on low-level flights, after this week's tragedy in the Dolomites.

Twenty people died when an American warplane on a training fight from the base at Aviano flew under a cable-car wire and severed it with its tail fin, sending a gondola crashing to the ground.

But the Government faced growing calls from its own ranks for more drastic measures, including a review of US military bases in Italy. The centre-left coalition, elected in a "historic shift to the Left" nearly two years ago, is dominated by the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the former Communists — which has long been opposed to Nato.

Umberto Ranieri, foreign affairs spokesman for the PDS, said it was "time to reopen the agreements which permit US installations in Italy". He said the bases were governed by "secret treaties negotiated in the 1950s". He added: "The Cold War is behind us, and they no longer have the same raison d'être."

But Signor Andreatta, speaking in an emergency debate in parliament, gave a warning against moves to scale down, or even close, US bases. "Closing down US bases would mean renationalising the Italian defence system, which would have grave repercussions." Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, said Italy would remain a "vital member of Nato in a strategic area".

Strong feelings over the tragedy were reflected in a packed village Mass for the victims at Cavalese, the resort below the cable-car link on Mount Cermis where the accident happened. Parishioners said they doubted whether the American aircrew, accused of "recklessness" by Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, would be punished.

"The heavens belong to everyone, not just to the rich and powerful who think they can play with other people's lives," Don Caserotti, the parish priest, said. Father Tommaso Volcan, the priest in the village of Masi del Cavalese, close to the cable-car link, said: "Let us say it loud and clear: Clinton is a womaniser and a warmonger."

Anti-American feeling was also expressed by President Scalfaro, who said America was "a great civilisation" with remarkable medical and scientific achievements. But it also had a "dark and cruel side" exemplified not only by pilots "playing games with lives" but also by "the excited crowds who applauded the execution of Karla Tucker in Texas at about the same time".

Signor Andreatta said the pilot responsible for the tragedy did not observe the flight plan and was four or five miles off course. He said: "If the pilot had stuck to the rules, the disaster would never have happened."

The 31-year-old pilot, who had 500 hours' flying experience, refused to answer questions from Italian magistrates. The four-man crew are under investigation for "multiple homicide", but insisted through lawyers that they had the right to be tried by a US court.

Armando Cossuta, president of Rifondazione Comunista, the hard-left party on whose votes the Prodi coalition depends, said Italy was an "occupied country" whose sovereignty did not extend to US and Nato bases.

Giovanni Bianchi of the PPI, a left-wing Christian Democratic party in the ruling coalition, said the US-Italian relationship "needs to be rethought". There are 30,000 US servicemen and women in Italy, with the biggest concentrations at Aviano, Livorno and Naples, headquarters of both Nato Southern Command and the US Sixth Fleet.

☐ **Washington:** Pentagon officials admitted they "cannot dispute" Signor Prodi's view that "tragic recklessness" was responsible for the accident, *The New York Times* said. The officials told the paper the Grumman Prowler was supposed to fly at least 1,000ft above ground on training missions. The cable wire was just 330ft high at the point it was clipped by the plane. *(AFP)*

STEFANO RELLANDINI / REUTERS



US Air Force General Richard Bethurem, centre, escorted by carabinieri, arrives in Cavalese for a memorial Mass to the 20 victims

Ailing Arafat 'has named moderate as successor'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Palestinian leadership's future was under scrutiny yesterday after a claim that Yassir Arafat had confided to President Clinton that his chosen successor was Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen).

The London-based newsletter *Foreign Report* said Mr Arafat, 68 and believed to be suffering the onset of Parkinson's disease, disclosed his choice at his private meeting with Mr Clinton in Washington last month, when the US leader failed to kickstart the Middle East peace process.

Based on US sources, the newsletter, known for its intelligence contacts, quoted Mr Arafat as telling Mr Clinton: "We can never give up. The Palestinian struggle will continue and the struggle will carry on for generations if it will be needed. When my time will come, I will be replaced by brother Abu Mazen. As far as I am concerned, the end of the process will be establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and to achieve this goal I am willing to be flexible here or there, as long as I know the result will be this one."



Abu Mazen: said to be close to the Israelis

Foreign Report said that Mr Arafat, whose lower lip has developed an uncontrollable trembling in recent months, said that the PLO leader went on: "We have agreed to a division of historical Palestine, but we will never accept a division of the West Bank [conquered by Israel in 1967] or give up part of it."

Mr Arafat has repeatedly refused to name a successor, but among contenders Abu Mazen, 65, was always the favourite. But Mr Arafat is said to have reacted angrily to reports that Abu Mazen is his "deputy", an unofficial position.

Abu Mazen has been mentioned for months as the man most likely to succeed Mr Arafat, but as a moderate known to be close to the Israelis he has bitter enemies within the divided Palestinian camp.

Other contenders include Ahmed Qurie (Abu Ala), Speaker of the Palestinian legislative council; Jibril Rajoub, head of the West Bank security services; and the dark horse, Saeb Erekat, chief peace negotiator.

Resistance couple sue over claim of betrayal

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PARIS

FRANCE'S most respected and admired Resistance couple went to court yesterday to defend themselves against allegations by a French historian that they were Gestapo agents during the Second World War.

Raymond Aubrac, 83, and Lucie, 85, filed a libel suit against Gérard Chauvy and publisher Albin Michel for suggesting in a 1997 book, *Aubrac, Lyon 1943*, that the couple may actually have been double agents who betrayed France's most famous Resistance leader.

The case reopens one of the most mysterious chapters in France's wartime resistance. Raymond Aubrac was seized by the Gestapo in Lyons in March 1943, three months before Jean Moulin was caught. Moulin, the imposing leader of an anti-Nazi Resistance network working closely with General Charles de Gaulle, was tortured by Klaus Barbie, the top Gestapo leader in the Lyons region at the time, and died from his wounds.

M Aubrac was tortured, and later released. M Chauvy suggested in his book that it was the Aubracs who paved the way for Moulin's arrest. M Chauvy has said his allegations are based on a will Barbie wrote after his 1987 conviction on crimes against humanity. In the will, Barbie suggests that the Gestapo forced a confession from M Aubrac, made him a double agent, then intervened to secure his release, according to the account.

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Blairs bask in White House banquet glitter

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE stars of Hollywood and Silicon Valley converged on the White House last night for one of the most glittering banquets of the Clinton presidency, an evening designed to celebrate a new transatlantic relationship and mark a special chapter in the special friendship.

For Tony and Cherie Blair, the dinner and its array of guests provided a glamorous backdrop far from the continuing embarrassments of Monica Lewinsky, a chance to bask in a shared vision for the future and an opportunity to revel in the duets of Sir Elton John and Stevie Wonder.

In every sense it was intended as a merging of two cultures. The extravaganza was for weeks the hottest ticket in town: by far the most dazzling of any event held in the Clinton White House. It both promoted Mr Blair as a world statesman and helped to boost the President as the embarrassment of his alleged sex scandal resurfaced.

The 240 guests, from the East and West Coast elites, from the British "establishment" in America, senior Cabinet members and the closest Clintonites, provided at one stroke an image of youth and achievement, high technology and outlook for the future.

From Hollywood came Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, Barbra Streisand, Harrison Ford and their wives; Tina Brown, Anna Wintour and Liz Tilberis, the three editors from New York, led a cast of British guests, and others included top executives from entertainment and Silicon Valley.

The menu, of course, was Anglo-American too. Honey mango glazed chicken, grilled salmon with oven-seared Portobello mushrooms, roasted artichokes, strawberries and cream and brandy snaps were accompanied by a Newton Chardonnay, Swanson Sangiovese and Mumm from the Napa Valley.

Tables in the East Room were set with Eisenhower gold plates while china from the Reagan era was used for service. Kennedy Morgantown crystal and gold vermeil flatware were set on terra cotta damask tablecloths and the centrepiece vermeil and silver candelabra, containing gold tapered candles, were surrounded with amaryllis, roses and hypericum berries.

It was the end of a long first full day in Washington in which the two men had huddled privately while their wives — in case anyone had forgotten their background — had lunched with 40 of the city's most powerful lawyers. They ate pumpkin soup, herb-crusted chicken, spinach salad and a pudding oddly named a "spherical fantasy".



Tony Blair and Bill Clinton at attention outside the White House yesterday for their national anthems

Bear aggression wins diplomatic retreat

BY BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON AND ROBIN YOUNG

TONY BLAIR said yesterday that he had no plans to bring the "Pooh Five" home with him from the United States, adding that the stuffed toys looked "happy where they are" in their glass case in New York Central Library.

"It is only since I got here that I realised it was such an important issue," the Prime Minister said during dawn television interviews before hours of meetings at the White House. "I don't think it will feature highly in the talks with President Clinton," he added.

As Mr Blair left for Washington on Wednesday, Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody called for the return of Winnie the Pooh, Eeyore, Piglet, Tigger and Kanga (with Roo) — the original toys given by the author, A. A. Milne, to his son Christopher Robin more than 70 years ago and used by the artist E. H. Shepard as models for his *Pooh* book illustrations.

"Just like the Greeks want their Elgin Marbles back, so we want our Winnie the Pooh along with all his splendid friends," she said. Mr Blair, arriving later that day for three days of talks dominated by growing tension over Iraq, was taken aback to find the Milne menagerie's fate rising fast up the agenda.

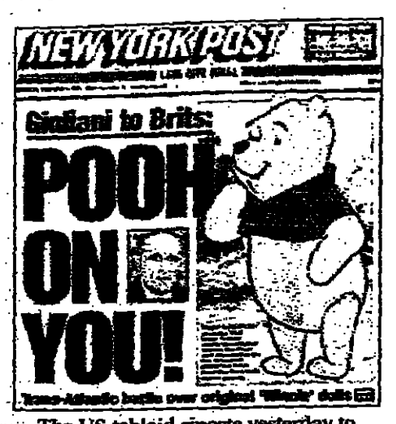
The White House issued a statement saying: "We do not expect this to be on the formal agenda of the meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair."

Yesterday the *New York Post*, in a front-page splash story, responded bluntly to Mrs Dunwoody's suggestion under the terse headline: "Pooh on you!"

The paper added: "That's New York's response to Brits who want to yank Winnie the Pooh and his plush friends from the comfort of their home at the New York Public Library and drag them back home to England." Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, did not hesitate to weigh in as well, vowing to keep Winnie and friends in his city and declaring: "This is no longer a foreign city. We were freed a long time ago."

He denounced Mrs Dunwoody's observations as "fightin' words" and promised to visit the stuffed animals at once as evidence of his total commitment to their retention.

In 1947, A. A. Milne gave the toys to E. P. Dutton, his US publisher, after a transatlantic promotional tour, and it was Mr Dutton who lodged them at the library on long-term loan. Christopher Robin Milne, to whom it might have been argued they properly belonged, is dead but was fully aware they were in New York. He never asked for them back.



The US tabloid riposte yesterday to the British repatriation campaign

Starr pressing for Lewinsky answers

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR, the independent prosecutor, said yesterday that he was making "very significant progress" in his investigation into allegations of sexual impropriety by President Clinton.

Mr Starr has given the cold shoulder to Monica Lewinsky's latest offer to give evidence in return for immunity from prosecution and is reported to have set today as the deadline for the former White House trainee to submit to questioning or face criminal prosecution. "We are going by the book," he said. "We want the truth." William Ginsburg, Ms Lewinsky's lawyer, said yesterday: "We have given them the truth."

The independent prosecutor has judged Ms Lewinsky's proposed written statement, offered in exchange for immunity from prosecution, to be unacceptable because it contradicts taped conversations with her friend, Linda Tripp. He is also believed to think it unclear on the central legal issue of whether the President urged her to cover up a sexual relationship with him.

"Nothing is being discussed" with Mr Starr, Mr Ginsburg said. "Nothing, nothing, nothing. If there is any part of 'nothing' you don't understand, I'll explain."

Mr Starr said that if Ms Lewinsky, 24, had not agreed to co-operate by the end of the week, he could move to bring charges of perjury against her.

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Reporters chastised by writer at royal banquet

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

ARTHUR C. CLARKE denied last night that he had ever paid for sex with boys, describing it as "one of the most revolting charges ever laid against anybody — that is why I am so upset by it". Sipping an orange juice at a state banquet in Colombo, he talked briefly to the Prince of Wales, exchanging pleasantries and smiling.

His arrival at the banquet at President's House, where the Prince was guest of honour, surprised everybody, including the British High Commission, which has been trying since Sunday to track him down after the *Sunday Mirror* accused him of having sex with boys in the 1980s. "I didn't expect you lot to be here," he told journalists who approached him. "This is not Arthur C. Clarke. It's a clone." He added, laughing: "I am not supposed to say anything to you bastards."

Sir Arthur, 80, suffering from post-polio syndrome, arrived in a wheelchair as dignitaries from more than a dozen countries gathered amid intense security for the last big event of a week of events celebrating Sri Lanka's 50th anniversary of independence from Britain. "I am not saying anything because I am taking legal advice," Sir Arthur declared initially, but went on to talk briefly of his disgust at the accusation.

The exchange with the Prince happened in the greeting line before dinner began. They shook hands and the Prince stooped to talk to him. The Palace is believed to have favoured going ahead with plans for the Prince formally to knight Sir Arthur two days ago, but the science fiction writer asked for a postponement, saying he did not want to embarrass the royal visitor.

Sir Arthur was too frail to travel to London after the award of his knighthood in the New Year's Honours List. He issued a statement last night, dismissing as "nonsense" the *Sunday Mirror* allegation that he had admitted to two of its reporters that he had sex with boys. "Having always had a particular dislike for paedophiles, few charges could be more revolting to me than to be classed as one," the statement said. It was signed Sir Arthur C. Clarke.

He reiterated that he was seeking legal advice on the report. The *Sunday Mirror* journalists who wrote the story, and who are still in Colombo, claim to have his confession on tape after identifying themselves to him as reporters and asking him if he had ever had sex with boys.



Clarke: "so upset" by paedophilia claim



JOHN STILLWELL / PA

The Prince of Wales, his technique a bit rusty, tries a stroke at the Colombo cricket ground where Graham Gooch, left, and England "A" held a coaching session

Sir Arthur said the allegations had triggered a wave of support for him from friends all over the world, "some of whom I never knew I had". He added: "Indeed, the accusations are such nonsense that I have found it difficult to treat them with the contempt they deserve. My conscience is perfectly clear. In any event, I categorically state that the *Sunday Mirror* article is grossly defamatory and contains statements which in themselves and by innuendo are quite false, grossly inaccurate and extremely harmful."

Sir Arthur has lived in Sri Lanka for 42 years. He came initially to pursue his love of diving, and fell in love with the island, proclaiming it decades ago as his permanent home.

Injured Prince displays team spirit at crease

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THE Prince of Wales defied his doctors yesterday and swung a bat in the grounds of the Sri Lankan national cricket team in Colombo. He was, by any measure, rusty. Graham Gooch refused flatly to help him. "I'm retired," he said, backing away.

The Prince cracked some ribs three weeks ago when he fell off his horse, and his lower back was damaged in a polo-riding accident years ago. Doctors warned him to avoid strenuous activity until his ribs healed, but he gave a what-the-hell shrug and grabbed a bat.

The Prince, visibly in pain all week, brought an Australian physiotherapist, Sarah Key, with him from London. He was supplied with a cushion when he had to sit for a long period during Sri Lanka's independence anniversary celebrations on Wednesday, and he spent most of the time twirling his feet around — an exercise recommended by Ms Key, who left last night for Australia.

His cricketing performance was admittedly hampered by a suit and tie. He missed the first ball, which came at him slow and straight, delivered by a schoolboy participating in a coaching session given by a few members of the England "A" team, touring Sri Lanka until February 22. He clipped the second ball, sending it spinning towards a clutch of photographers. The third bounced off the bat with a satisfying crack.

"I'm going to give up now, otherwise you might get bored with it," he told cameramen. "And that won't do." This was a new, friendlier Prince of Wales, willing to chat and mingle with the reporters and photographers he once shunned.

Graham Gooch, manager of the England "A" team, was asked to assess the Prince's prowess. "He probably needs to brush up on technique. He probably hasn't had any coaching since he was at school. It was great effort in this temperature."

The Prince planted a tree at the cricket ground, sprinkling it liberally with water. "All I am doing is watering my trousers," he complained. Earlier, during a visit to the British Council language centre, he confessed to feeling inadequate because "so many of you for whom English is not the mother tongue speak it far better than I can".

The day ended with a state banquet, during which the Prince announced that Britain was giving £10,000 to restore the clock tower in Jaffna, in the Tamil heartland of the north. The tower, the shattered city's main landmark, was damaged in fighting in the late 1980s.

Petrol attack Briton critical

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A BRITISH nurse remained in a critical condition in hospital last night after being doused with petrol and set on fire by a man here.

Gabriella Mazzali, 27, from London, suffered burns to 90 per cent of her body when her clothes were ignited with a cigarette lighter after she was wrestled to the ground by her attacker outside her home.

Neighbours said they heard the British woman running into the street screaming for help in the Sydney suburb of Ashfield.

One neighbour said that Ms Mazzali had told them earlier she was scared of being attacked by the man, who later gave himself up to police.

Her Scots former boyfriend, 33, who suffered 20 per cent burns to his body, was under police guard in hospital last night awaiting questioning by detectives. Police refused to name him.

The couple had been living in Sydney for some months and had been on work visas. Police believe that the couple had separated last month and that the incident occurred after the man had visited her apartment.

WORLD IN BRIEF

TV man in jail over statue head

Copenhagen: A Danish television cameraman who was the first to film the headless Little Mermaid statue has been jailed for 13 days pending a police inquiry into whether he decapitated it (Christopher Follett writes).

Michael Poulsen, 31, who has previous convictions for vandalism, claimed he had been tipped off by an anonymous caller about the removal and the return of the head to a local television station by a hooded man.

Suspect sues

Tokyo: Mohammad Amran, 22, a British citizen awaiting trial on robbery charges, is suing the Japanese Government over an alleged assault by guards at the centre where is being held. *(AP)*

Diplomatic hold

Tehran: In a step allowing US athletes to compete in Iran for the first time in almost 20 years, visas have been given to American wrestlers taking part in an international meeting here this month. *(AP)*

Poison kills 25

Beijing: Twenty-five people died and more than 500 became ill in Shuozhou, northern China, after a local man made and sold alcoholic drinks mixed with methanol, state media said. *(Reuters)*

Kenyan curfew

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya imposed a curfew on key Rift Valley towns, including Nakuru, and ordered in security reinforcements after tribal attacks that have left more than 100 dead. *(AFP)*

Absorbing find

Beijing: Scientists have found fossilised sponges, believed to be 580 million years old and the earliest multicellular animals, in China's southwestern Guizhou province, the Xinhua news agency said. *(Reuters)*

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HOT TIP

Stay healthy with Espas Detoxifying Algae Envelopment treatment (approx £35). This helps to rid your body of toxins through gentle skin exfoliation and algae enzymes, ease tension and boost the metabolism. If you book between Jan 12 and Feb 28, you will receive a miniature detoxifying kit containing detox bath and massage oil. National inquiry number: 01252 741600

'It's like wearing a basketful of kittens, but less squirmy'

There was a nasty moment at breakfast this morning when my son suddenly announced that it is wrong to kill things. Is that right? said I, wondering whether to play this ball, or to let it dribble quietly off to the boundary. The fact is, I am, in my way, quite an accomplished little mass murderer. There is nothing like a slug or an aphid to bring out the Violette Nozière in me. And as for clothes moths — well, I love the smell of naphtha in the mornings.

This is because the only creature alive that loves cashmere more than me is a clothes moth. I can't get enough of it. Some luxuries are an acquired taste — it is hard to look at ostrich skin, say, or fancy diamonds, without hearing in one's inner ear a small, insistent voice saying "hideous!" But with cashmere the luxury is palpable: the warmth of it, the lightness, the wonderful softness — like wearing a basketful of kittens, only less squirmy.

One of the great charms of cashmere is how good it is for morale. The harassed working mother's uniform of black trousers and whichever jumper seems to have less Marmite on its cuffs turns into a different proposition altogether if the jumper in question is, say, Amanda Wakeley's anthracite or bitter-chocolate cashmere with silk-satin roll-back cuffs (hand-washable, too, so the Marmite is an inconvenience rather than a tragedy).

Somehow, the mere act of putting on that jumper subtly alters your view of yourself. No longer the persistent recidivist whose child is completing his homework in the back of the car as you screech, quarter of an hour late, into school, you find yourself escorting him into assembly (they are halfway through *For Those in Peril on the Sea*) and giving the headmistress a brilliant smile that says: "I am successfully juggling two unspeakably demanding roles, with scarcely a dropped stitch!" Good gracious. And all this because you thought to put on a cashmere jumper. Worth the money, or what?

Ah, yes. The money. Well, it is cashmere's great drawback. Those pashmina shawls worn by every celeb worthy of a picture in *Hello!* magazine, which start at £450 . . . Have I got one? No, I jolly well have not. I may be hopelessly addicted to shopping, but I have some dim sense of proportion, and spending hundreds of pounds on a shawl which I would undoubtedly leave at the theatre on its very first outing is where I draw the line.

Still, over the years, I have acquired a quantity of it on a very modest budget, from two main sources. One is the sales. This can be nerve-racking if you have really set your heart on something. Are you going to find your twinset in thrush-egg blue marked down to something you can afford, or will there be nothing but a miserable row of turtlenecks in a vicious shade of mustard? Successful sales shopping requires considerable dedication — the best stuff is never in the same place for two seasons running, so one year the TSE concession in Liberty is a dream of little silk-bound camisoles, the next, all the good stuff is at Harvey Nichols, and the next year, N. Peal is miles better than either. Your accountant would say that if you costed in all your time and effort, your beautiful little sales find is far more expensive than if you had just coughed up the full retail price. But he is an accountant and knows nothing of the thrill of the chase. You may ignore him, if you wish. And anyway, it isn't all such hard work. N. Peal on Piccadilly, just by Fortnum's, seems to have a permanent box of reduced bits of this and that — a moss-green cable-knit skirt; another in finely ribbed pale blonde; an enveloping jumper, the shade and texture of a dormouse's armpit . . . so enticing is the presence of this box that in lean months I have to shut my eyes as I walk past on my way to the London Library.

The other good place to find cashmere if your budget is small is the thrift shop. This is how I started. Now that vintage clothing is so fashionable among London's *jeunesse d'orée*, it may be harder to stumble upon a bargain hanging among the M&S acrylic cast-offs in the Oxfam shop, but it is still possible, as long as you bring to the task the beady eye and suspicious nature of a French concierge — especially in the matter of little holes. The last thing you want is to invite a Trojan Horse full of clothes moths into your closet.

The charm of second-hand cashmere is not just the price, but the designs. Pieces from the Fifties and Sixties often have a verve rather lacking in recent cashmere design, where the dreary "classic" label has too often meant a dismal timidity of design and a restricted colour range: black, navy, beige, grey, and a baby pink fatal to any complexion paler than olive.

Fortunately, such prudishness seems to be on the way out. Younger designers, such as Clements Ribeiro and Rebecca Moses, have made it their business to cheer up cashmere, and now the high street (check out Oasis, Jigsaw and Principles) is following. Outside, the weather may still be bitter, but Rebecca Moses's boat-neck cashmere jumper, in deckchair stripes or solid tones of saffron, lime and a shade somewhere between rose and brick, looks as sharp and fresh as the first warm days of spring.

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

If it's cool – it's cashmere

SIX OF THE BEST

CASHMERE may be back in vogue but gone are the days of baggy, shapeless jumpers and matching twinsets. Here are six of the best alternative cashmere items around.



TRAINERS BY SUPERGA, £115
The footwear favoured by stylish Italians. 8/10
From Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-491 7833).



DRESSING GOWN BY LAURENCE TAVERNIER, £259
The ultimate in slouch chic. 7/10
Available at Fenwicks, New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 9161).



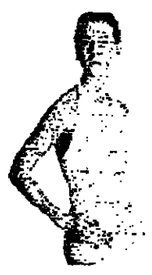
CUSHIONS BY LOUISE BARNETSON, £245
They are so soft that you never want to let go of them. 10/10
Stanley Supply Store By appointment only: 0171-627 2999.



TANK DRESS BY RALPH LAUREN, £775
Cashmere is the ultimate fabric to have next to your skin 7/10
From Polo Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond St, W1. (0171-491 4967)



BLACK TIGHTS BY FOGAL, £200
At this price, make an extra effort not to ladder them! 9/10
Available at Fogal, 36 New Bond Street London W1 (0171-493 0900)



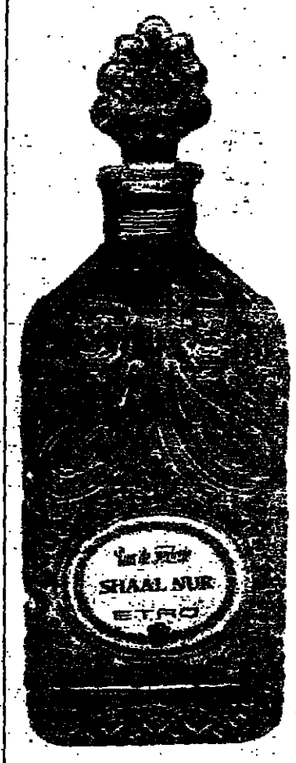
HALTER-NECK TOP BY REBECCA MOSES, £170
This top clings perfectly to the body. 10/10
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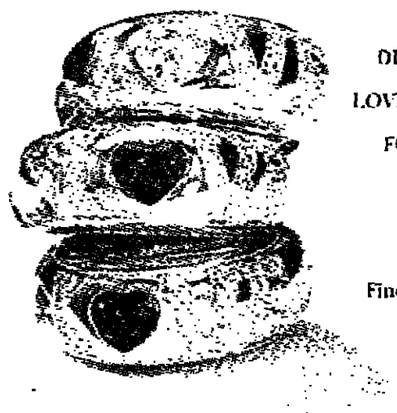
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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6 1998

A reputation tarnished by blood

An investigation into a murder and suicide at Harvard suggests the university is more concerned about image than truth. **Barry Wigmore** reports

Harvard University, which, sits, dreamy and august, on the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a centre for superlatives. Along with England's Oxford (after which it is modelled) and Cambridge, it is one of the world's great seats of learning.

A mere youngster by European standards, Harvard, founded in 1636, is the oldest college in America. It has produced six American presidents — including John Quincy Adams, the Roosevelts and John Kennedy — and famous men and great thinkers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry James and T. S. Eliot.

With 20,000 students, it is nearly as large as Oxford and Cambridge combined. It is also perhaps the wealthiest school in the world. An endowment of $9 billion (£5.6 billion) and an annual operating budget of $1.5 billion allows it to run obscure courses even when no students wish to take them.

"Nothing wrong with the course — perhaps the students are too ignorant this year to take it," is a philosophy that few other establishments can afford these days. Harvard alumni have created vast wealth and, aware of the opportunities that membership of this meritocracy has brought, have frequently made large and grateful contributions to their alma mater.

Into this scholastic Shangri-La in 1993 tumbled two young ladies — poor refugees on scholarships — whose fame was to be of another kind. Within two years they were dead. It was a grisly murder-suicide that left the pair, for ever, and unjustly, intertwined. To its critics, Harvard is still trying to whitewash the glaring imperfections that their deaths revealed, like a bloodstain in the ceiling that will not go away.

Now, just when the administration hoped that the memory was beginning to fade, a new book shows the blood-stain again. *Halfway Heaven*, by Melanie Thernstrom, will be published in Britain by Virago in the spring. Ms Thernstrom is a member of the blessed fraternity: not only did she graduate from Harvard, just like her father — still a faculty member — mother and brother, but she also taught creative writing there. She has used her insider's knowledge to get round the obstacles Harvard placed in the path of less informed investigators, and paints a damning portrait of a university more concerned about image than student welfare or the truth.

CONSTANTINE MANOS/MAGNUM



Harvard is a scholastic Shangri-La

On the morning of Sunday, May 28, 1995, in Dunster House, a ghostly residential hall behind Gothic iron gates, Sinedu Tadesse, a 20-year-old second-year student who had survived the nationalisation policies of the Dergue after Emperor Haile Selassie was deposed in her native Ethiopia, padded silently into the adjoining room of her flatmate, Trang Ho. Trang, who had found her way to the United States as a child with the Vietnamese boat people, was another 20-year-old survivor of the world.

In a silent, wide-eyed frenzy, Sinedu stabbed Trang 45 times with a kitchen knife. A girlfriend staying with Trang raised the alarm after escaping with severe slashes as she tried to stop the attack. By the time the police arrived and battered down the barricaded door, Sinedu had retreated to their shared bathroom and hanged herself from a neatly measured noose that she had earlier tied to a shower rail.

The deaths were the most spectacular at Harvard since a medical student dismembered a classmate in 1849. For a university that depends on its carefully cultivated reputation to attract the sons and daughters of its wealthy graduates, it was a disaster, and the press and television had a field day.

The question everyone was asking was, why? What had tipped this seemingly placid student over the edge? It was a question, says Ms Thernstrom, that the university did not want answered.

Even the Cambridge police found their investigation blocked by Harvard authorities, who wanted the inquiry handled by their own, private, university force, says Ms Thernstrom. She quotes Detective James Dwyer: "Trying to get information from Harvard is like trying to ask questions of this filing cabinet."

Harvard frequently "forgets" to tell the regular police about suicides, said Detective Dwyer. "When we contact Harvard they say 'Oh sorry, our mistake'. But there's a pattern to these mistakes." The District Attorney's office told Ms Thernstrom a similar story.

The murder-suicide came after a period of death and crime more suited to the sleuthing skills of Inspector Morse than the college police. In the preceding months two students had committed suicide; two more had admitted to the theft of $127,000 from a cancer charity; and yet another had been accepted for a place at the college, then rejected when it was discovered that she had killed her mother. In addition, since 1989, Harvard students had been convicted of fraud, insider trading, attempted blackmail, rape, armed robbery and another murder-suicide.

Little wonder that by 1995 the exhausted, traumatised university president, Neil Rudenstine, had been forced to take three months' leave to recover. As the American media converged on Harvard, the university's high-priced public affairs department went into overdrive on spin-control, says Ms Thernstrom. Tutors were warned that they would be sacked if they talked to reporters. Administrators tried to block access to documents that were a matter of public record.

Harry Lewis, the dean, sent a letter to parents assuring them: "Neither student was living outside the college's carefully woven advising system. Indeed, both students were in close contact with their academic advisers and seemed to be managing the ups and downs of college life."

The letter added: "We feel confident that we are organised in a way to provide the necessary support."

The reality was entirely different, Ms Thernstrom alleges. But nobody looked into it properly until she started investigating, driven in part by a sense of guilt. As a creative-writing teacher, she had rejected Sinedu's application for the course in 1993.

Three years later, as an investigative journalist, she backtracked through both girls' lives, talking to relatives in the US, Saigon and Addis Ababa. In particular, Ms Thernstrom was able to delve through Sinedu's stack of spiral-bound diaries, which chronicled her troubled time at the university, where she had arrived with such great expectations.

The journals had such titles as *My Small Book of Social Rules* and *The Social Problems I Faced*, and Ms Thernstrom confessed that she felt guilty about the intrusion. But she also felt justified. She obtained access to them six months after the deaths by making a claim to see them under America's Public Records Act.

The diaries revealed the side that Harvard wanted to keep quiet, says Ms Thernstrom. It is an interesting indication of how a Freedom of Information Act in Britain might make authorities reveal unpalatable truths they would prefer to keep covered up. The Public Records Department decided that the diaries should be made available to Ms Thernstrom because, in murdering Trang, Sinedu had committed a public act and had changed from a girl with private problems into the subject of a public investigation.

Ms Thernstrom is particularly scathing of the university's 11 full-time lawyers, $200,000-a-year public affairs manager (a former Washington lobbyist) and the Dunster House master, Karel Liem, who as a professor of ichthyology is also curator of 1.2 million fish specimens in the university's Museum of Comparative Zoology. The author deems him "much more adept at classifying dead sea life than dealing with human problems".

Since her first year, Sinedu had been seeing Dr Douglas Powell, a psychologist at the University Mental Health Services. Dr Powell told Ms Thernstrom he was under a gagging order from his bosses and could not talk to her, but after talking to his superior, Ms Thernstrom concludes that the mental health department, "providing a service that was difficult to quantify", was under increasing financial pressure. It encouraged only limited help for students suffering from every-day neuroses rather than psychotic breakdowns and, as a result, Sinedu's meetings were brief and inconsequential.

> Harvard often 'forgets' to report suicides to the police

Finally, Sinedu latched on to Trang, a happy extrovert. Feeling sorry for her, Trang agreed to share a room with her, not realising the important part she played in her friend's imagination. Trang went home each weekend to visit her family. Although she had relatives in the US, Sinedu appears to have stayed at Harvard, and moped.

In a cry for help, Sinedu poured her heart out in a letter to another student, a stranger whose name she obtained from the phone book. She wrote: "I am like a person who can't swim, chocking [sic] for life in a river . . . Please do not close the door in my face. Even if you are not interested, please give this letter to a friend or relative who might be."

The letter was handed to the university authorities, who tucked it away in the troubled girl's file. Ms Thernstrom's message seems clear: Sinedu Tadesse was crying out for help, and Harvard did not provide it.

The university had little to say about Ms Thernstrom's book. Alex Huppe, its director of public affairs, said: "She is a very clever storyteller. She tells an interesting story, but her version of certain facts differs from what we believe to be true."

When it was pointed out that Ms Thernstrom was highly critical of Harvard, he added: "I have not read the book so I really can't comment. I am not going to discuss the substance of her allegations. She is a good storyteller."

● Halfway Heaven, *by Melanie Thernstrom, will be published in Britain by Virago in the spring*

AP



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Trang Ho, left, was fatally stabbed by her roommate, Sinedu Tadesse



Trang Ho's mother mourns

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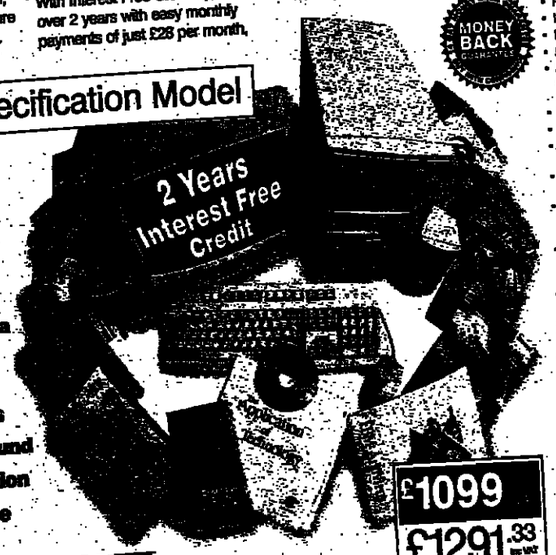
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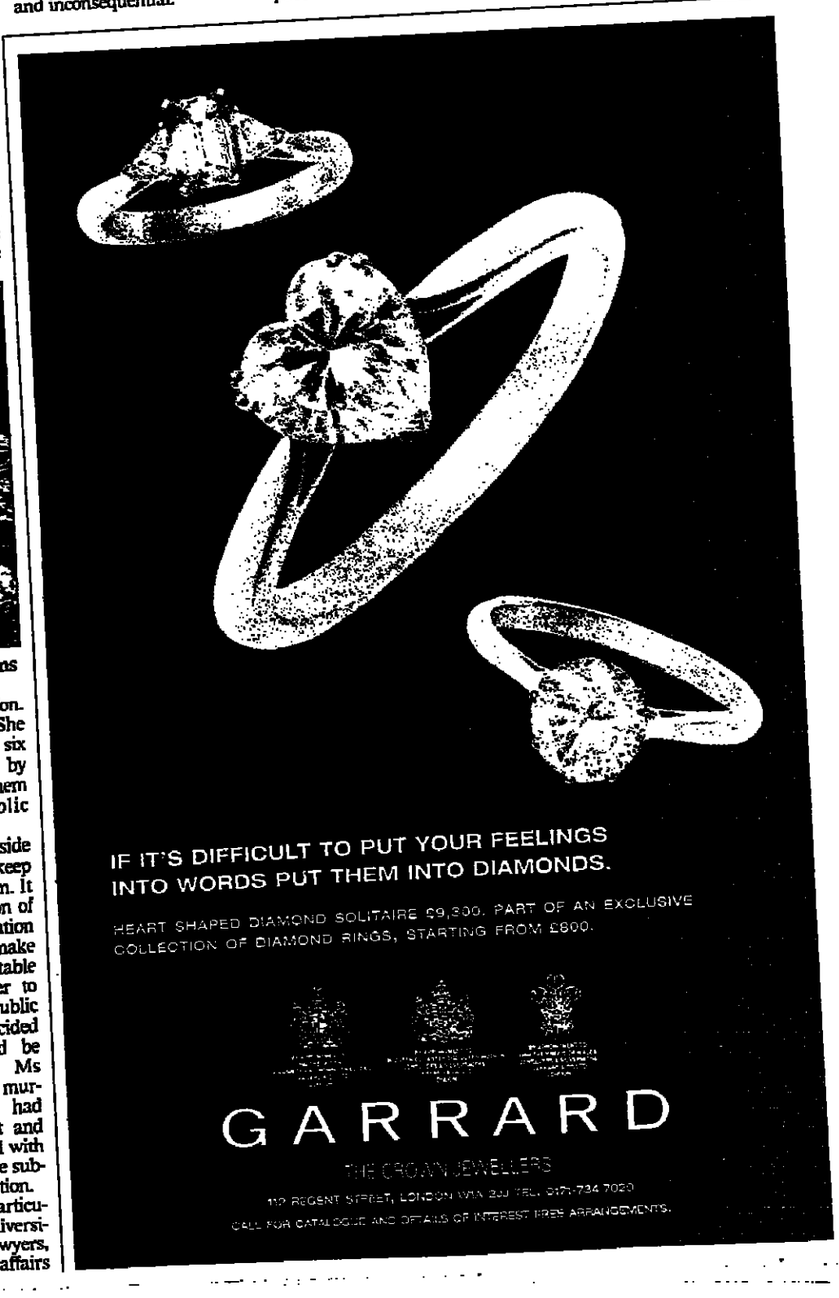
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A second bite at the Third Way

Can Blair make it work where Clinton failed? asks **John Lloyd**

Two political leaders united by a common quest are meeting in Washington. Both Tony Blair and Bill Clinton have posited a "Third Way" as their distinctive contribution to late 20th-century political practice. If there is a subtext to their discussions, it is — Third Way: beef or bull?

For President Clinton the quest is probably over. He tried, in his first term, to give the American people what he thought he had come to the White House to create — a national health service providing for even the poorest American. His failure destabilised and becalmed his presidency for a while; it certainly seems to have exhausted its capacity for government-led social amelioration.

Robert Reich, his former friend, Labour Secretary and intellectual *doppelgänger*, told me last year that during Clinton's second term all poor and many working Americans were worse off than at the beginning of his first. Mr Reich was a very new Democrat; he was a herald of the new global economy and accepted its disciplines; but he also believed, and thought Mr Clinton believed, that "you have to get as many people into the new economy as possible and compensate the losers. I refuse to accept this is a zero-sum game where only a few benefit."

Mr Clinton has had to accept that for many Americans, it *is* a zero-sum game — as many lose as gain. He has had to master a game in which the trick is to steal the Right's clothes, before they have put them on. His wife has been pilloried for trying to give the poor decent healthcare, and lauded for exculpating him from a sex scandal. He has been through — perhaps, he created — a rollercoaster of postmodern politics.

If that is his Third Way, it is a zany one. It resembles a kind of neo-conservative paradise. He has low inflation, low unemployment, low taxes, low welfare spending, a flexible labour market, limited central government intervention, increasingly tough law and order, a large prison population and a continuing will to use the death penalty. He has ring-fenced a certain liberal area — the right to abortion, an activist stance on minority employment, education and rights, and a relaxed view of gay sexuality. Beyond that, the Third Way is the Right's way.

Tony Blair, by contrast, is still seeking the Grail, although he starts from a very different point from Mr Clinton. He has one of the most efficient health systems in the world. Instead, he needs to retain and dynamise the great social democratic institutions where possible, to cajole people into taking a greater personal responsibility for life's trials rather than relying on the State, and to encourage the market to help to extend security beyond the public health and welfare systems. He has hardly begun. There are problems which might make him lose his way, but he cannot be judged to be failing, much less to have failed.

Unlike the President, he governs a medium-sized state in which central government-led action can still command assent and respect. He can still essay national approaches; yesterday's Green Paper on health, explicitly linking illness to poverty, reflects new Labour's best side — its holistic interpretation of contemporary reality. He took to Washington a few of the two-brained people he likes about him — David Miliband, head of the No 10 Policy Unit; Geoff Mulgan, head of the Demos think-tank; and Anthony Giddens, the director of the LSE. They are at the opposite end of the political learning curve from Robert Reich — still buzzing with ideas and enthusiasm, scarcely bloodied by hopeless engagements.

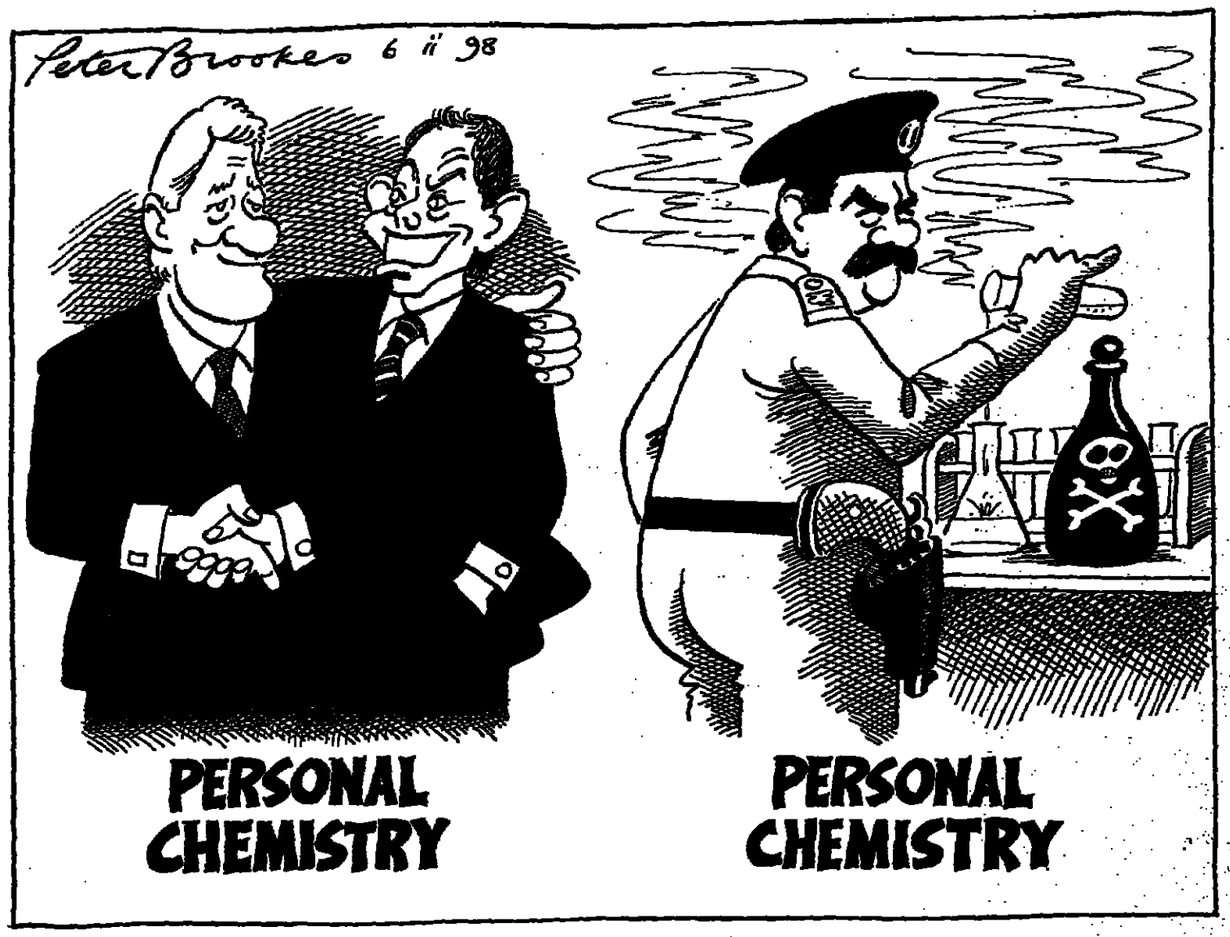
Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who also went, said yesterday that the Third Way was at the core of the non-Iraqi talks between the two leaders. Both wanted to discuss "ideals" and the "big picture"; unless these were clearly seen to underpin government, Mr Straw said, its policies would degenerate into aimless pragmatism. New Labour still see ideals as its touchstone, hence the outrage when its good faith is questioned.

Mr Clinton saw his country's politics continue to slide to the right in most matters; unable to stop it, he followed and even led it. Mr Blair does not have that kind of policy; indeed, new Labour may be encouraging, on the British Right, a process of policy analysis and fresh thought not seen since the 1970s. In the past week, Lord Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, has thought aloud about reshaping the Upper House into a kind of federal chamber; and the Centre for Policy Studies, once a powerful engine of the thoughtful Right, has published a pamphlet on British federalism. Both drive to the heart of Labour's incoherence on devolution and parliamentary reform; they show a Tory party abandoning its dour, moss-like grip on old structures in favour of a part-collaborative, part-competitive reinvention of what makes a successful national community. New Labour may be "producing" a new Conservatism, somewhat as Thatcherism "produced" new Labour.

Mr Blair's Third Way will be a melange. It will be light on its ideological feet, opportunistic in its policy-making, and obsessed by image. But it has the chance of being more than neo-Conservatism tricked out in Armani and lubricated by extra-Virgin olive oil. There may be, in the bizarre union of social democracy with Thatcherism, a "way" that new Labour can call its own and which is not zero-sum.

Blair meets in Clinton a man who has had to settle for being leader, but not reformer, of a superpower, and whose largest task is getting people to accept him, intimate distinguishing marks, and all. Clinton meets in Blair a man who may still reform. It will take all the President's generosity to avoid a stab of envy for his guest.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



Trumpeting uncertainly

I can't argue forcefully against a Gulf war — but nor does it stir a crusading spirit

Matthew Parris

Advice to a young journalist pondering an opinion column would echo St Paul's to the Corinthians: "If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who then shall prepare himself to the battle?" Even the most elementary course in column-writing would begin with this golden rule: be sure you have something to say; say it with confidence; say it loud; say it clear; and say it about fifteen times.

The converse is equally true. Can you imagine a worse way of starting a column than: "I do not quite know what to think about the subject on which I propose to write"? Woe, then, is me. I do not quite know what to think about the subject on which I propose to write: Iraq.

But I earnestly want to say so. I want to sit on the fence — and shout it from the rooftops. For I am troubled by the curious conviction that my lack of conviction matters. It would matter less were I not sure that a very large number of my countrymen share it. Millions of us do not quite know what to think about Iraq. Yet as I write, war with President Saddam Hussein looks likely — even imminent. And the funny thing is, I don't believe the British people feel at all strongly about this. I sniff it in the wind. We are unmoved. We are prodigiously indifferent.

As I write, we may think we know how we feel, but tomorrow we forget. Though the facts, the dates, the meetings and communiqués endure in the records and cuttings, it is astonishing how the *feeling* of an era can elude capture by the archivist. Soon we shall wonder how it did seem, at the time. A sensation as vapid and uncertain as the British people (if not their Government) now experience over Iraq can escape as fast and as irretrievably as steam into the morning air.

The snapshot, then, is worth attempting, for there will not be many. The newspaper files are already overloaded with the views of the minority who do know what they think. The archives of *The Sun* will show three words, "Take out Saddam", occupying half of that newspaper's front page yesterday. The two centre pages tell readers how and why to join the Army. *The Guardian*, too, used three big words for its lead story: "Saddam's hidden arsenal". And *The Times*? "We are ready to use force, says Blair — Saddam 'could kill whole world' ".

There is a media conspiracy here, but not the one Tony Benn thinks, for views like his are given great prominence too. The "For God's sake stop before it's too late" brigade have found powerful voice in recently. Labour's Commons dissidents on Iraq — Mr Benn, Tam Dalyell, George Galloway, Harry Cohen, Jeremy Corbyn — have been much better reported than the loyalists, and given space out of all proportion to their numbers, their influence, or their slightly nutty quality.

And not just the nuts, either. On these pages, Simon Jenkins offers frequent and eloquent blasts against intervention. Last week he called invasion "as near to pure immorality as offensive war can get". In the *Daily Mail*, answering the question "Should Blair back Clinton?", the independently right-wing Simon Heffer said no: there was no evidence that Britain or the United States had the least idea what they were doing.

So the Simons Heffer and Jenkins say "no", and the Prime Minister and *The Sun* say "yes" — and that's the media conspiracy, because half the rest of Britain says Search Me. And that matters. And I do not believe the politicians or the newspapers have noticed. "Search me" is a difficult column to write.

This quality of uncertainty shading into indifference is extraordinarily difficult to capture by the techniques of the simpler sort of opinion polling. I know of no polls at all in Britain, yet, on Iraq; but when there are, they will probably show a substantial majority in favour of intervention.

This will be less significant than it may appear. Few among a nation with a history like ours wish to sound half-hearted — let alone pacifist — on any question of intervening against an obviously unpleasant, tinpot dictator overseas. If our almost obscenely popular Government says that Saddam's a menace, and the pollster's question is "Do you support the Government in dealing firmly with this menace?", the answer will tend to be "yes". But remember: if we are properly to interpret what our citizens say to people with clipboards, we must make allowance for the predominance of the conventional wisdom. Where gunboats and nasty foreigners are concerned, "yes" is the default option for the undecided in Britain, as well as the positive choice of the certain.

The difference is important. If I am right, and millions here feel privately unsure about Iraq, then if the wind changes, so will they, and rather fast. I do not sense that Britain's determination to "do something" (rather unspecified) about Saddam has very deep roots in the popular culture of the winter of 1997-8. It was not like that with the Falklands war. I was unenthused by that adventure, but not for a moment could I have kidded myself in the spring of 1982 that my mood matched my constituents' in Derbyshire. They were gung-ho for it. When I told Matlock I thought the Foreign Secretary, Francis Pym, should be encouraged in his search for compromise short of war, I was nearly lynched. The cold print of *Hansard* reports of the era will do no justice to the sense of Commons unity, behind a national military endeavour. It did not falter when the *Sheffield* went down. Nobody except Tam Dalyell cared which way the *Belgrano* was going when Margaret Thatcher ordered it to be sunk: they all just thought "Good show!"

Our last war with Iraq commanded less passionate support, partly because we were only playing second fiddle, and partly because Kuwait did not inspire the affection among us which the Falkland islanders could. Our interest was not so well-defined; but, though the warlike spirit ran less deep, the public were more or less engaged. There seemed a clear *casus belli* in Iraq's unprovoked invasion of Kuwait. There was a clear enough British interest in oil supplies from the Gulf. And (though this was to unravel later) there did seem to be an identifiable and achievable Western objective: the reoccupation of Kuwait.

My guess is that public enthusiasm was just about sufficient for the Government to dispatch British forces to the Gulf hopeful that, should we suffer early reverses and significant casualties, support at home for sending troops, and for persevering in the campaign, would hold. But I think it was touch-and-go. Luckily it was never tested.

Whatever doubts and uncertainties attached to that war, they are multiplied in this case. The provocation, though there, is less dramatic, and the objectives are less clear. The most easily definable aim — the removal of Saddam — poses three problems: are we sure we want to? Are we sure we can? And dare we state such an objective now? I have no idea how to answer.

The Sun probably has its finger closest to the pulse when it goes straight for that option. Anything more blurred, I suspect, cannot provide the British people with the focus needed for their loyalties in an inherently confusing picture. If the war goes badly, it will be too late to begin marshalling these loyalties.

I doubt whether they have been marshalled yet. In the end, I can only guess, and cannot prove that my own feelings are widely shared, but, for the record, they are these: I am conscious of a curiously empty feeling about the whole conflict. I half think I should be engaged, but I am not, and cannot pretend. I cannot give you a knock-down argument against this adventure, but we seem to be drifting towards something whose outlines remain hazy. Perhaps when we get there I shall see it was right: but I am just not seized with either the sense of moral imperative or the intellectual certainty — or even the boyish thrill of adventure — which the dispatch of British forces to an overseas war commonly brings. The feeling isn't there. There is nothing in the air — no crusading spirit. I would not for a second daydream of signing up.

I am not unconvinced by the Foreign Secretary's argument, it's a good argument, but it simply doesn't grip me. The passionate certainties of the anti-war brigade do not grip me either: their arguments are easy to question, they were wrong last time, and, in Parliament, they sound a bit loopy and obsessive.

There is something not quite right about this; something baleful. The sound of the trumpet is uncertain. Is that worth saying? And what more can one say?

Philip Howard



■ To baldly go through thick and thinning

For women, fat is the adipose issue that dares not speak its name. With its billboards of what Alan Clark would describe as the "pert globes" of a veteran, Age Concern is doing its pendulous best to combat both ageism and fatism, while encouraging boobism. It would have been bolder to broadcast less prizewinning 60-year-old breasts that had been desiccated by the changes and chances and children of this mortal life. But men are licensed to be both fat and fashionable, provided that they are rich or famous. Life is unfair.

Alopecia is the masculinist issue. The unspeakable defect in man, equivalent to the fuller figure in woman, comes when the only thing about him that is growing thinner is his hair. So the discovery of the gene which mutates to cause baldness could bring hair in our time. It might lead to a cure for baldness. On the other head, like all previous hair restorers, it may prove to be balderdash. As we report today, the fastest growing fashion in hair care is now colouring. It may make your hair fall out, but at least you can see that at the roots it works.

For each generation discovers its characteristic remedy for baldness, which marks the passage of time with falling hair in as elegiac a mode as the falling leaves: *Les cheveux longs Des violons D'automne...* Before the Gene with the light brown hair, hormones were thought to be both the cause and cure for thinning hair. Get your hormones right, and hair would sprout out of your head instead of the ears and nostrils and shoulders. The green and credulous generation of the Sixties tried to keep its hair on with natural remedies such as seaweed or royal jelly, applied internally, externally or both.

The Thirties created the convention that a properly dressed gent always wore a hat. This convention is still honoured by Army officers in town. The purpose is not merely so that the gent may raise his hat to ladies of his acquaintance or hoped-for acquaintance. It also camouflages the major's shiny pate. Victorians defended their baldness with electrical stimuli, animal magnetism and other contemporary inventions. These worked as well as genes. Before the Victorians the fashion of shaving all cranial hair, and covering the billiard-ball skull with a wig, was designed not just for adornment, nor for hygiene, nor (as in the case of the first Queen Elizabeth) as a corrective for Nature's defects. A wig is cephalocratic: beneath the wig all heads are equal.

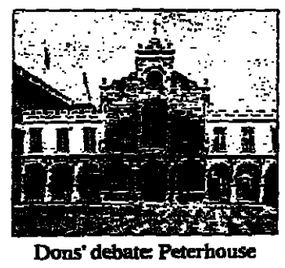
Some remedies for baldness, such as the wig, are ageless. Ancient Egyptians wore black or sky-blue wigs as protection from the sun (or so they said) rather than as camouflage for middling age. And those like Elton John who have hair grafts, or Michael Fabricant who have wigs today, find it still makes them look at least ten years sillier. *Le Bobby Charlton* is the fashion for draping long lateral hairs across the top of the head to disguise its nakedness. This style is impractical in a wind. But it is also old. Napoleon combed his hair forward to hide his prominent forehead. Has Tony Blair adopted a Julius Caesar hair style to suggest new imperial virtues?

For the history of man can be written in his attitude to hair. Cleopatra applied bear's grease to Caesar's bald patch. Toupés and strange unguents have been tried for a long time by the boys voted most likely to recede. But our trichologically correct baldism is part of the modern worship of youth. Until Eden and Kennedy, British Prime Ministers and American Presidents were usually bald. Hairlessness was taken as a symbol of tribal wisdom and statesmanship. Now not even news readers can appear hairless. And William Hague wears a baseball cap back-to-front to hide his gleaming pate.

And yet Yul Brynner, Kojak and fashionable modern footballers are evidence that baldies can appear sexy. Losing hair at the front indicates that the man is a great thinker. Losing hair at the back suggests a great lover. But to lose hair at both the back and the front at the same time is a sign that the bald man only *thinks* that he is a great lover. Now this new baldness gene would remove rich variety from nature. And if evolution is extrapolated from our ancestors, it suggests that in the long run we shall be bald all over. Until then, hats off to baldies. For they have nothing left to hide.

College feud

C. P. Snow would have been amused. The Master of Peterhouse had to intervene this week in a dispute between dons at the crusty Cambridge college to prevent a controversial historian being thrown out. Sir John Meurig Thomas used his casting vote in favour of Dr John Adamson after his colleagues split 13-13 about renewing his tenure. The roots of the argument date back to the 1970s, reflecting arcane divisions on the college's high table. Dr Adamson, a 17th-century English expert, joined the college in 1986 and became unpopular with liberals. His profile was raised still further in the 1990s, after his work on the origins of the civil war was denounced by a history professor at Harvard for alleged inaccuracy. Dr Adamson resigned last year from the History of Parliament Trust. He then led a Peterhouse campaign against an extension to the nearby Fitzwilliam Museum and became involved in the rumpus over the college ghost. Petreans are discreet, but one senior don said: "Votes are only this close when the person is controversial. Adamson is unusual. He is not a suburban don. He is colourful. He has invented himself in a way that most dons just don't do these days."


Dons' debate: Peterhouse

The split, between scientists and arts types, is reminiscent of Snow's *The Masters*, about strife at a Cambridge college. Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, a Peterhouse man, says: "The college is like a family; they all know each other and get on each other's nerves. I am always pleased when old habits are carried on." Dr Adamson agrees: "Peterhouse is a lively college and this is one of its many delights."

● *A JOLLY party of Muslims headed to the Commons last night for its first celebration to mark the end of Ramadan. Soon they were whooping it up over tea and sandwiches. Waiters, who favour stodgy English cuisine, snatched back all the samies when they realised they were full of ham.*

DIARY

Out on a limb

ARTIFICIAL limbs are to be displayed in an exhibition which will pay tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales's campaign against landmines at the Imperial War Museum in London. *Landmines: The Human Cost*, will be opened by a man who seems to know about stray limbs, Robin Cook. "This is not the sort of thing we usually have on display here," says the exhibition organiser, Christopher Dowling, "but we thought it would help people understand the issue. We'll also be laying out a simulated minefield — when visitors step on a mine lots of lights will start flashing." I telephoned Nicholas Soames, the former Defence Minister who crossed swords with the Princess, to ask if he intended to visit. "This exhibition is about landmines," he says "it has nothing to do with the Princess, nothing at all, do you hear?" Should he find time to drop in, he will find a whole section dedicated to the Princess's campaign.

● *THE demands of matrimony are bearing down on William Hague. Earlier this week, Tory peers chipped in £22 a head to throw a post-wedding party for him and Ffion in the Cholmondley Room at the House of Lords. After being presented with four candlesticks, Hague was called upon to make a speech. "I've been kept very busy," he said, beaming at lucky Ffion "practising my Welsh."*



Making waves

JUST four months after he moved into Chelsea, the hotelier and Eighties-type Peter de Savary has already incurred the wrath of his neighbours, who include Lady Helen Taylor and that priestess of presentation, Zoë Ball. Some plan to complain to the council about the façade of his house, now decorated with nautical oddities. His choice includes a brass gas light, a *bas en relief* of an anchor, and a large plaque bearing the word, Boathouse. "It's extremely ugly and not in keeping with Chelsea," says David Wood-Roberts, a long-time resident. "The pale wood door is extremely inelegant." Residents of the Boathouse remain unrepentant. "Someone must like this stuff," says a de Savary deckhand, "because we used to have two large ship lights on either side of the door but they were pinched."

● *DAVID BLUNKETT has asked his agreeable French counterpart, Martine Aubry, for a date. "My definition of flexibility is for the mademoiselle and myself to go and see* The Full Monty *on the grounds that this was the best expression of flexibility in the labour market that I could actually engender." Hmm. His chat-up lines have clearly grown rather rusty, but the MP is keen to organise the trip as the film is set in his Sheffield constituency. I just hope David and his guidedog, Lucy, find the film a fulfilling experience.*


Blind date: Martine Aubry

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الاصل

PRIOR RESTRAINT

Lord Irvine's press censorship would protect only the powerful

The Lord Chancellor, in his own words, sits at a "critical cusp" of the constitution. As the conduit between judiciary and government, Lord Irvine of Lairg has responsibilities to both. Few ministers have the Lord Chancellor's influence at the heart of Government and no minister has the freedom he enjoys to act as trail-blazer and sage. The interests of the Government are sometimes served by Lord Irvine's special status but they were not well served yesterday. His suggestion that the Press Complaints Commission exercise "prior restraint" on newspapers to prevent them intruding on individual privacy would take Government, press and citizens into new and dangerous territory.

Lord Irvine's comments on press regulation were made during the course of a provocative and wide ranging interview with the *New Statesman*. As an insight into the thinking of one of the Cabinets most formidable intellects and an exercise in constitutional kite-flying it was precisely what one might expect from a minister of Lord Irvine's gifts. On press regulation, however, the Lord Chancellor raised aloft a kite which deserves to be shot down. The arguments against Lord Irvine's proposals go to the heart of how freedom of expression can best be defended in the Human Rights Bill currently passing through Parliament.

To advocate "prior restraint" sounds like an invitation to caution but, as envisaged by Lord Irvine, it would not be a tripwire which led newspapers to look before they leapt into print. It would be a portcullis which would stand in the way of investigations reaching the public and which would prevent the appearance of potentially embarrassing information about public figures. As Lord Wakeham, the Chairman of the PCC, argues convincingly in an open letter to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, "prior restraint" is censorship by another name. It would place a weapon in the hands of the powerful to use against those properly scrutinising how they exercise their power. Lord Irvine believes that the PCC should be able to prevent the publication of material which is alleged to breach individual privacy, if there is no clear justification in the public interest. He also believes that the PCC should have the power to impose fines on the newspapers which do intrude on the privacy of individuals. Lord Irvine proposes heap on to the PCC, a civil and voluntary body, the powers of a statutory "public authority" under the Human Rights Bill.

If Lord Irvine's proposals were to become law, the PCC could not survive under the strain of its new obligations. Newspapers which freely submit to its rulings, and offer prompt apologies or corrections to wronged individuals, would no longer voluntarily co-operate with a body which had the power to censor. Many investigations into the abuse of power have begun with an intrusion into privacy which would have been difficult to justify initially under the terms outlined by Lord Irvine. The early inquiries into Jonathan Aitken's activities as a Minister, which ended in his disgrace, would never have been published if the system Lord Irvine advocates had been operating.

Not only could the powerful evade scrutiny if Lord Irvine had his way; ordinary citizens could lose a valuable channel of redress if the PCC became a public authority with new powers and editors withdrew co-operation, preferring to take their chances in the courts. Those without the money to go to law would be denied a body which acts informally and effectively on their behalf. No one stands to benefit from such a proposal; apart from the senior lawyers whose rewards Lord Irvine has promised to reduce. No one would wish to limit the Lord Chancellor's freedom to explore radical reforms, but before he replaces an efficient, though imperfect, system with one that is unworkable, he himself should exercise some "prior restraint".

SUMMIT BY SEMINAR

There are limits to what Blair can learn from Clinton

The Prime Minister has a pressing schedule in Washington. He held talks with President Clinton yesterday and later met the congressional leadership. He will have breakfast with Vice-President Albert Gore this morning, hold a televised news conference with Mr Clinton shortly afterwards and then enjoy an extensive afternoon session in the White House. From there he will travel to Camp David, the presidential retreat. All this activity disguises the fact that on most key matters — the crisis in Iraq, the Asian economic collapse and Bosnia — the two men could scarcely be much closer.

In the absence of substantive disagreement, the President and Mr Blair have chosen to engage in serious discussion. This afternoon's deliberations in Washington will consist of a four-hour social policy seminar, a sequel to an event at Chequers last November chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by Hillary Clinton. The American side will consist of the President's closest advisers. Mr Blair will field Jack Straw, Helen Liddell, Alan Milburn and most of the Downing Street Policy Unit. As President Kennedy once said in a different context, never has so much talent been together in the White House except when Thomas Jefferson dined alone.

The assembled company face an ambitious agenda. They will apparently consider the character of contemporary economics, the revitalisation of strong communities in an age of intense change and the reconnection of citizens to the political process.

The overarching theme will be the search for what President Clinton has described as a "Third Way" between traditional social democracy and free market capitalism. This notion has been echoed by some in the Prime Minister's circle who aspire to embrace "post-statist collectivism". Mr Clinton is notoriously enthusiastic for this sort of exercise.

This meeting for minds is an excellent idea. It deserves to become a regular feature of transatlantic exchange. The amount that Mr Blair can learn from the President is, though, contestable. In truth, the "New Democrats" are a less than encouraging example for new Labour. Mr Clinton first entered office with dramatic plans that collapsed in Congress. For the last three years he has promoted a large number of small-scale proposals. If there is an ideological thread that connects them then it is a type of low-calorie conservatism. It is often simply opinion poll inspired opportunism.

The quest for a "Third Way" is illusory and as credible as the goal of a third gender. The real debate is about how best to use capitalism not bypass it. These questions include the expansion of access to markets, the preparation of the maximum number of people for technological change, the empowerment of those who have had little influence over their own destiny, the radical redesign of public welfare systems and respect for the institutions that, through voluntary choice, bind human beings to each other. This is less "post-statist collectivism" than "inclusive individualism".

That terrain is not the exclusive territory of left or right. At its best, new Labour, unlike the New Democrats, shows signs of occupying it. The Prime Minister is in the right city to take that process further. This afternoon he will find himself in the wrong public building. There is another American politician with the appropriate intellectual interest in, and an energetic programme for, these important issues. He has already had an enormous impact on policy in the Clinton era. Unfortunately, for both men, Mr Blair will not be spending much time during this trip in the company of Newt Gingrich.

TWO OUT OF TEN

For educationalists who want the world to be a different place

Any parent knows that children thrive on rewards and, occasionally, punishment. So basic is this psychological insight that it can be extended to intelligent animals such as dogs and horses. From nursery school onwards, children come home excited when they have been given a gold star or sticker for good work. But now, we are told by an educational expert, such practices should be eschewed, for they reinforce failure.

How odd that the very remedy that behavioural experts suggest to parents should be frowned upon at school. Fridges and cork boards across the country are festooned with star charts to encourage children to do their homework, help around the house and tidy their rooms. Nobody suggests that such a system punctures their self-esteem. Rather it encourages them to exhibit the good social behaviour that will help them in later life.

School should also prepare children for the world outside. Instead, educationists such as Paul Black, who wrote this report, seem determined to cocoon pupils from reality. Children, he says, should not be given marks out of ten, grades or gold stars, for then they "look for the ways to obtain the best marks rather than at the needs of their learning". Moreover, those who discover through marking that they have not done well "are led to believe that they lack ability, and this belief leads them to attribute their difficulties to a defect in themselves about which they cannot do a great deal".

Yet learning to look for the ways in which they can win the best marks is one of the most useful life skills to be gained from school. Much of life is about working a system to its full advantage. Pupils who know how to maximise their test results will be well equipped for the world of work.

And what about those who win low marks? Can these not be seen as a spur to greater achievement rather than an invitation to give up? Low marks do not necessarily reflect low ability; they are just as likely to be a sign of lack of effort. And if the children themselves are not immediately motivated to work harder as a result, they may at least be urged to do so by their parents.

Most children prefer their work to be rigorously marked. They want to do better than in their previous test and they want to do better than their peers. Competition is a natural instinct in children, displayed in any primary school playground. And competition is endemic in the world outside: employers will judge potential employees against each other. Teachers do pupils no service by insulating them from these truths.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Profit-making role in lottery success

From Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC

Sir, It is a great pity that Richard Branson soured the rejoicing at his victory in the High Court with his vindictive call for the resignation of Peter Davis (report, February 3).

The Oflot regulator can have had nothing at all to do with either a bribery attempt or a failed libel suit. As someone closely involved in the Conservative Government's change of attitude in favour of a national lottery, I for one am not happy about his departure from office.

Sadly, Mr Branson is taking his time in recovering from the rejection five years ago by Mr Davis of his own bid to run the National Lottery, even though the £5 billion raised by Camelot, under Mr Davis's supervision, has made it the most successful in the world. Surely it is clear that the marketing success upon which the lottery has been built could never have been achieved by a non-profitmaking company.

Could not Mr Branson turn his entrepreneurial skills to addressing a problem which the Government has so far not felt able to solve: how the £3.7 billion allocated to the good causes but not yet taken up by them might be immediately put to helping charities. At present the money is benefiting the Treasury — something which in opposition new Labour vehemently opposed.

Yours faithfully,
IVAN LAWRENCE,
1 Essex Court, Temple, EC4 9AR.
February 4.

From Mrs Sian Flynn

Sir, Where the lottery is concerned, there seems to be an increasingly widely held view that a "not for profit" organisation is bound to be better and more efficiently run than one where the profit motive drives managerial culture. Indeed moral superiority seems to be assumed.

We must beware allowing this to become received wisdom. Too often "not for profit" can be an excuse for allowing poor management, at considerable cost.

Keeping the profit motive in the lottery equation should result in an incentive to reduce costs. Whilst it is obviously important to ensure that management bonuses are kept to an acceptable level, this should deliver maximum benefits in the form of lottery profits for the six good causes.

Yours sincerely,
SIAN FLYNN,
Kiwane Lodge,
Valley End, Chobham,
Woking, Surrey GU24 8TE.
February 3.

Taxation of barristers

From Mrs Heather Hallett, QC, Chairman of the Bar Council

Sir, Mr D. D. Culley, in his letter on the taxation of barristers' fees (February 3), asserts:

It may be that the barrister has to agree better payment terms with the client's solicitor or charge interest, but this must be between those two parties and should not affect the Government's collection of tax.

If only it were that simple. The fact is that for a very large number of barristers the other party is the Government itself.

The Government does not negotiate our payment terms. It dictates them. The Government does not pay interest on our fees, yet does keep us waiting months, often years, for payment. Those doing government work do not enjoy "an enormous mark-up in calculating their fees", as Mr Culley assumes to be the case. They are entitled to be paid a reasonable fee for the work done. An official employed by the Government decides what is a reasonable fee.

Mr Culley's letter will be of little comfort to my members, particularly the new entrants, who have started in practice saddled with thousands of pounds of debts and are struggling to survive on substantial overdrafts.

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER HALLETT,
Chairman,
The General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WC1R 4DB.
February 3.

'Auto-pilot' lawyers

From Mr Hugh N. Parsons

Sir, I am puzzled by the example chosen by the Home Secretary, in criticising defence solicitors in the youth courts, of a lawyer, operating "on auto-pilot" and informing the court that a client with a long record of offending "had a pregnant girlfriend and a job starting on Monday" (report, January 29, earlier editions).

It is a lawyer's duty to put to the court any matters which can properly be put in mitigation on behalf of their client. That the persistent offender cited by Mr Straw had obtained employment and was a father-to-be could indicate a newly responsible attitude and a more stable lifestyle adopted by the offender. They would certainly be relevant factors which could avoid a custodial sentence.

In my view, a defence lawyer who failed to put such matters before the court on behalf of his client would be failing in his professional duty.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH N. PARSONS,
Humphreys and Parsons (solicitors),
Cambrian House,
Machynlleth, Powys SY20 8AL.
January 30.

Place for moral absolutes in Tory policy on the family

From the Chairman of the Conservative Christian Fellowship

Sir, Politicians often talk about "the family" but rarely define what they mean by it. Last Thursday evening's speech by William Hague was an historic exception. Your editorial of January 31, "New family values", drew attention to on a small proportion of that speech — the Conservative leader's inclusive approach to homosexual people and other unmarried family forms. But Mr Hague had said all of this at last October's party conference.

What was new was a clear acceptance of marriage as the ideal to be promoted in public policy. William Hague argued that divorce was generally bad for children. He challenged the libertine Law Commission's advocacy of increased rights for cohabiting couples. He acknowledged that the Conservative administrations of the last 18 years had not done enough to help the family.

Mr Hague made a bold and intelligent attempt to reconcile tolerance of alternative lifestyles, which he stressed did not mean indifference, and the promotion of marriage in party policy. He also noted that most people still live in families headed by married couples. In that sense it was also politically astute: policies to support the majority will help reconnect the Conservative Party with the British people as well as its intellectual heritage.

Yours sincerely,
TIM MONTGOMERIE,
Chairman,
Conservative Christian Fellowship,
12b Widecombe Court,
Lyttelton Road, N2 0HN.
February 2.

From Mr Robin Brookes

Sir, The Fifties, which your leading article associates with a priggish morality, were a time of intense debate. The concerns of that decade — literary censorship for instance, capital punishment, the law of marriage, divorce and abortion, homosexuality — provided the agenda for the 1960s.

The Conservative Party, then as now, contained adherents of a revealed and unchanging morality, to whom your sentiments must give a degree of pain; but characteristically it is cautiously pragmatic in its response to social change. "Change is our ally" was a Conservative slogan of the time. The line Mr Hague has taken is much what one might have expected from Sir Edward Boyle or Sir David Eccles, to mention two who had the ear of the party in the 1950s, or indeed from Mr Butler and Mr Macmillan.

The generation which held the reins in the 1950s, during which I grew up, was in sharp reaction to the Victorian age. "Victorian" stood for the conspiracy of silence on sexual matters, the double standard for men and women, hostility to contraception. There would have been no mileage in a proposal to return to Victorian values.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BROOKES,
Beech Tree House,
Beech Lane, Grayshott,
Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6LT.
February 2.

From Dr D. E. B. Powell

Sir, You appear unsure, in today's leader, whether an outdated morality is to be laid at the feet of the Victorians or of the "priggish and sometimes prejudiced morality of the Fifties and before". This is in relation to the exploitation of women and to assumptions that heterosexuality is normal and that births to the never married are illegitimate.

"Moral absolutism" is dismissed as the preserve of a "fire-and-brimstone preacher". Then, having caricatured a limited selection of these values, you seem to consign those of your readers born before the "generational divide" of the Sixties, to a dustbin of dated, chauvinistic and homophobic irredeemables.

You praise Mr Hague as one who stands for these new family values. In some respects he has practised his own preaching. But are we now moving into an era of no moral absolutes? You pick on gender-related issues. But what of questions of life and death, honesty and fidelity? In such matters are we to be guided by that with which we can "live comfortably"?

Mr Hague's and your own guidelines are purely utilitarian. The strange thing is that when the "social damage" of cohabitation, never-married mothers, HIV/Aids and the like are pointed out, accusations of homophobia, etc, come flying fast.

Whilst today's political gods, of all parties, talk and behave as though they have discovered new values bereft of morality, many of your readers (of all ages) will feel on surer ground as they trust in a God-given morality that predates Queen Victoria by millennia.

Finally, to my mind your leading article is at complete variance with a series of superb leaders published over the years on the remembrance of the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I am, etc,
D. E. B. POWELL,
4 West Farm Close,
Ogmore-by-Sea, Brigend,
Mid Glamorgan CF32 0PT.
January 31.

From Father Bryan Storey

Sir, Your leading article today seems to me to underrate moral absolutism. Without the absolutes contained in most of the Commandments (eg, murder, adultery, to name just a couple) there is no morality at all.

Yours truly,
BRYAN STOREY,
Chy an Pronter, Trewarmett,
Tintagel, Cornwall PL34 0ET.
January 31.

Choice of issues

From Mr John Redwood, MP for Wokingham (Conservative)

Sir, You are right to say that the Conservative Party in Parliament needs to set out a serious agenda for the country (leading article, "The Commons touch", February 4), as William Hague has been doing. You are right to urge us to highlight the splits and divisions within what we in Opposition see as an unprincipled, rootless, restless Government. You are wrong to say we are only interested in trivia.

This week's DTI questions will not revolve around Margaret Beckett's bathroom, but around the impact of government policy on British manufacturers and exporters. I have spilt much more ink on the European presidency, the £25,000 million tax hike on business, the minimum wage and the Competition Bill, than I have on the misdemeanours of ministers.

My colleagues have spent many more hours and days debating devolution, voting systems, the pensions tax, the attack on the countryside and the Amsterdam treaty than they have on illustrating individual ministerial misbehaviour. So far the media have found the stories about lifestyles more interesting than the serious debates. It is our duty to illuminate both. It is the duty of the press to decide which captures the mood and sells most newspapers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REDWOOD
(Chief Opposition Spokesman on Trade and Industry),
House of Commons.
February 4.

From the Shadow Foreign Secretary

Sir, The references in your leader to Wednesday's debate on Robin Cook's dismissal of his diary secretary miss the point.

The debate was not about Mr Cook's private life. It was about his attempt to abuse ministerial power in a way in which both the Prime Minister and, belatedly, he himself, have acknowledged to be wrong.

It is a measure of their discomfort that it evoked a response from Labour described by your sketch writer today as "bullying ... intolerant, groupconformist and hateful."

Yours etc,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
House of Commons.
February 5.

Welfare of hunted deer

From Professor Patrick Bateson, FRS

Sir, May I clarify the purpose of the joint letter, signed by myself and Dr Douglas Wise, to *The Veterinary Record* on the welfare of hunted red deer (report, January 24)?

Dr Wise and I sought to identify further scientific research that might help clear up some differences of opinion between us following my report to the National Trust last April on the effects of hunting red deer with hounds.

If new research demonstrates that hunting deer causes serious muscle or kidney damage to deer that escape, then the criticisms of my conclusions in the report to the National Trust would not be sustainable. What was not said in the letter, but I shall state publicly now, is that if the new research failed to demonstrate any adverse effects on red deer, such findings could be open to numerous alternative explanations; for example, the sample sizes might have been inadequate or the hunts might have been less intense than usual. That is not to say that nothing would change my mind, but merely that proving a negative is always difficult.

I stand by the conclusions in my report that stag-hunting causes considerable suffering.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK BATESON,
The Provost's Lodge,
King's College, Cambridge CB3 1ST.
ppgb@cus.cam.ac.uk
January 29.

Prostate tests

From Mr Joseph C. Smith

Sir, Dr Stuttaford ("Why early prostate tests are essential", January 29) cites evidence that, without early diagnosis and radical therapy, seven men out of ten who "develop" prostate cancer die of it. I would remind your readers that only a tiny fraction of those who contract the disease die of it — one in one hundred, according to one estimate.

Dr Stuttaford also quotes US research showing a 94 per cent ten-year survival after operation, rather than well-known Swedish research which shows a similar ten-year survival without any treatment. The only long-term case-controlled study, which was conducted in the US, showed no statistically significant benefit from surgery at 23 years.

It may be true, as Dr Stuttaford states, that German patients (screened) have a survival rate 50 per cent better at five years than their British counterparts. However, screening will pick up the disease at least five years before clinical presentation, so these figures suggest that treatment does nothing to prolong survival.

I support properly controlled prospective trials of the treatment of early prostate cancer; but until an effective treatment is found I shall continue to enjoy my red wine, in blissful ignorance of my own level of PSA (prostatic specific antigen).

Yours etc,
J. C. SMITH
(President, British Association of Urological Surgeons, 1992-94),
23 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NX.
January 31.

Navy under fire

From Mrs Patricia Maerz

Sir, When, actually, is political correctness in fact correct? Lieutenant-Commander Chalmers was disciplined for accidentally "touching" a female colleague "in the groin area" (report, February 3). The woman involved was not, according to your report, upset by the incident, yet she was caused to become involved in a court martial. Surely it is her right to decide what is or is not disturbing to her. It sounds to me as if she may have been coerced into being a victim and her opinion not taken into account, which does not seem "politically correct".

Yours sincerely,
PATRICIA MAERZ,
50 North Bridge,
Edinburgh EH1 1QN.
February 4.

Scratch that

From Miss Anna Robinson

Sir, May I point out that the "instants" mentioned in Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones' Diary* are lottery scratchcards and not, as Tina Gaudoin seems to think ("The power generation", February 2), coffee.

Yours faithfully,
ANNA ROBINSON,
Pembroke College,
Oxford OX1 1DW.
anna.robinson@pmb.ox.ac.uk
February 2.

Ovid translation

From Mr Michael Cullis

Sir, Following on your report that our Poet Laureate has "stunned" the literary world with his *Birthday Letters* (January 19; see also letters, January 24), and that the Whitbread Book Award judges had found his version of Ovid's poems "sublime" (report, January 28), Simon Jenkins (article, January 31) expands on this latter theme, yet does not mention the centuries-old classic translation by Arthur Golding (1567) of the complete *Metamorphoses*.

I recall a leading verse-translator of our time, Ezra Pound, describing this, in no less extravagant terms, as "the most beautiful book in the language — my opinion, and I suspect Shakespeare's too".

The work has, however, been out of print since a limited edition was published by the Delamore Press about 100 years ago. Could not some enterprising publisher be persuaded to reissue it?

Yours etc,
MICHAEL CULLIS,
Peel House, Buntingford,
Hertfordshire SG9 9AE.
February 1.

Price of fame

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, I have received the following communication from the American Biographical Institute, Inc., of North Carolina:

Dear Mr Chaney [sic]. It is indeed a great pleasure to enclose your invitation to be a distinguished biographee of the MILLENNIUM HALL OF FAME which will showcase the lives of men and women who have made this century great ... I look forward to receiving your favorable reply to this nomination. I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Institute, for your many contributions to humankind.

The deluxe leather edition of the work will cost me $375; my Millennium Hall of Fame statue $375; my Millennium Hall of Fame testimonial plaque $375. Or I can purchase the whole package for $995.

I've been racking my brains to recall my many contributions to humankind. It's true I had a letter published in your columns not long ago ...

Yours immortally,
GRAHAM CHAINEY,
35 The Albemarle,
Marine Parade,
Brighton BN2 1TX.
February 5.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
February 5: The Queen, Patron, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, this afternoon visited Park House, Sandringham, and was received by the Chairman of Park House Committee (Mr James Maiden).

Her Majesty toured the house, escorted by Mrs Frances Alfrey (General Manager), and met guests and staff.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 5: The Prince of Wales, Vice Patron, this morning laid the foundation stone of the Millennium Wing of the British Council's offices in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

His Royal Highness afterwards opened the Nicholls Watercolour Gallery at the National Museum of Sri Lanka, Colombo.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon presented The Prince of Wales Trophy for "the Most Promising Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year" to the President of the Sri Lanka School's Cricket Association.

His Royal Highness later unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the restoration of Jaffna Town Clock.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended a State Dinner given by The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga).

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Reverend Canon Michael Benton a Chaplain to Her Majesty.

Reception

Age Concern Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the guests of honour at a reception at Claridge's yesterday given by Age Concern Westminster to mark its 50th anniversary.

Service dinner

Corps of Royal Engineers
General Sir John Stibbon, Chief Royal Engineer, presided at a dinner of the Corps of Royal Engineers held last night at the Royal Engineers' Headquarters, Chatham.

Sir Neville Simms, Major-General Cedric Delves, Air Vice-Marshal Malcolm Pledger, Mrs Pam Liversidge and the Masters of the Engineers' and Masons' Companies were among those present.

Dinners

Fruiterers' Company
Mr Anthony Redsell, Master of the Fruiterers' Company, presided, assisted by the Wardens, at the annual dinner held last night at Plaisterers' Hall. Lord Kingsdown, KG, Alderman Sir Brian Jenkins and Sir Edward du Cann also spoke.

During the evening the Master presented the Lewis award to Mr Ian Mitchell for his services to marketing in the fruit industry. The High Commissioner for New Zealand, the Recorder of London, the Chief of the General Staff and the Minister Counsellors of the American and Spanish Embassies were among those present.

Confederation of Passenger Transport UK
The Right Hon Tom Clarke, CBE, JP, Minister for Tourism, was the Guest of Honour at the Annual Dinner of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, held last night at Grosvenor House. The President of the Confederation, Mr David Humphrey, Managing Director of London United Busways, presided.



How Lowry saw the beach shelter at Berwick in 1939: the centre of attraction with its pagoda roof, playing children and dogs

Beach shelter Lowry immortalised faces demolition by council

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A DERELICT beach shelter with holes in the roof, rotting wooden seats and peeling paintwork is the subject of a conservation campaign in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Art lovers are opposing the local council's plan to demolish the prewar structure behind the pier because it was the subject of a painting by L.S. Lowry.

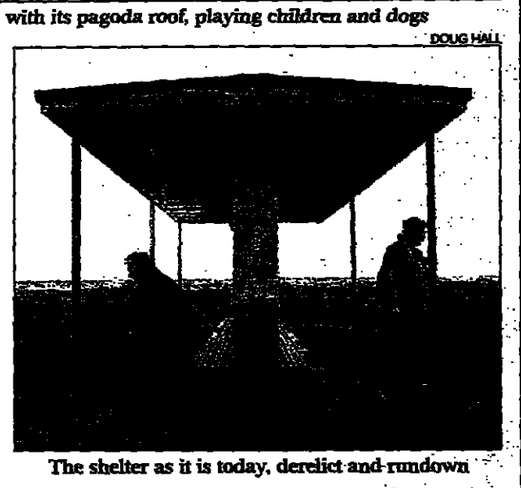
Lowry was a regular visitor to the area for decades, and he painted the shelter as he saw it in 1939. Since then it has become an unlikely tourist attraction and something of a shrine for Lowry devotees.

Berwick council's amenities committee has set aside £500 to bulldoze the shelter because it is in a dangerous condition. Brian Martin, owner of Berwick's Three Feathers art gallery, said: "It is a local landmark and popular with tourists and art lovers. The £500 they would spend on pulling it down would go a long way towards repairs."

Laurence Stephen Lowry was born in 1887 in Old Trafford, Manchester, and became one of the century's most celebrated artists for his working-class scenes of grimy, industrial landscapes, smoky back streets and matchstick men, woman and children wearing clogs.

Some of his most famous paintings and sketches hang in the country's leading galleries. But *The Shelter* is believed to be in a private collection.

DOUG HALL



The shelter as it is today, derelict and rundown

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.S. Adams and Miss A.C.R. Key
The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Adams, of Hawthorn, Wiltshire, and Anna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Horace Key, of Milford on Sea, Hampshire.

Mr C.H. Arundel and Miss N.F. Frame
The engagement is announced between Charles Henry, son of Rosemary Arundel and the late Robert Arundel, of Alvescot, Oxon, and Nicola Fae, eldest daughter of Robert and Fae Frame, of Cairns, Queensland, Australia, formerly, of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Mr T.W.P. Chetwood and Miss R.E. Bultman
The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of the late Mr Christopher Chetwood and of Mrs Chetwood, of Ellisfield, Hampshire, and Rachel, only daughter of Mr Matthew Bultman and Mrs Jean Bradley, of Nottingham.

Mr D.G. Francis and Miss A.L. Wood
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr Gary Francis, of Davoran, Cornwall, and Mrs Pauline Davies, of Clevedon, Somerset, and Antonia, daughter of Professor and Mrs Jonathan G.M. Wood, of Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Mr R.J.H. Gray and Miss P.R. Cousins
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Gray, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Patricia, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Cousins, of Wormley, Surrey.

Mr R.L. Harrison and Miss A.W. Hall
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs J.G. Harrison, of Mobberley, Cheshire, and Alison, daughter of Mrs E. Hall and the late Mr E.A. Hall, of Great Barr, Birmingham.

Mr T.F. Lewis and Miss S.W. Case
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Lewis, of Port Talbot, South Wales, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Case, of Porthcawl, South Wales.

Mr S.J. Harrison and Miss T.C. Lipscomb
The engagement is announced between Steven, second son of the late Mr C.J. Harrison and of Mrs Freda Harrison, of Solihull, Warwickshire, and Tamasine, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Lipscomb, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

Captain A.J. Kett and Miss M.S. Gibson
The engagement is announced between Alistair Kett, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, eldest son of Dr and Mrs David Kett, of Moseley, Birmingham, and Margaret Susan, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Gibson, of Ruislip, Middlesex.

Mr H.B. Lawson and Miss I.E. McInnes
The engagement is announced between Benedict, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Lawson, of Brough House, Milton Brodie, Moray, and Iona, daughter of Sheriff John McInnes, QC, and Mrs McInnes, of Parkneuk, Blebocraigs, Fife.

Mr C.J.E. Lunt and Miss M.D. Lloyd-Jones
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robin Lunt, of Bramshott, Hampshire, and Michèle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Lloyd-Jones, of Finchampstead, Berkshire.

Mr J.R. Pollard and Miss S.A.J. Markham
The engagement is announced between Jason, only son of Dr Roy Pollard, of Madrid, Spain, and of Mrs Peta Pollard, of Wormley, Surrey, and Sally Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Rudy Markham, of Singapore.

Mr I.C. Quaye and Miss V.F. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Isaac, eldest son of Mr and Mrs I.O. Quaye, of London, and Ghana, and Vanessa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs K.F.D. Wilson, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Signor A.D.L. Traversone and Miss E.A. Strickland
The engagement is announced between Andrea, elder son of Signor and Signora Carlo Traversone, of Piacenza, Italy, and San José, Costa Rica, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Strickland, of Hilton, Cambridge.

Latest wills

William Percy Adams, of Hadley Wood, Barnet, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,113,898 net.

Edward Ball, of Lower Breinton, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £1,029,231 net. He left £1,000 each to the PCC of Bretnton, the Dean and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral and Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust.

Charlotte Hulda Chamier, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,851,932 gross.

Reginald Edmund Gillett, of London, W5, left estate valued at £1,238,586 net.

Michael Killick, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,181,839 net.

Cornelia May Lawton, of Kingsgate, Broadstairs, Kent, left estate valued at £1,742,251 net.

John Luther Mather, of Hythe, Kent, left estate valued at £1,066,545 net.

Alexander Torrance Prentice, retired seed and grain merchant, of Paxton, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, left estate valued at £749,199 net.

Agnes Rigg, of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, left estate valued at £447,092 net. She left £2,000 each to Guide Dogs for the Blind, RSPCA, PDSA, RSPC and Cats Protection League.

Geoffrey Saffer, solicitor, of Shadwell, Leeds, left estate valued at £633,317 net.

Eric Robert Sawyer, of Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £584,378 net.

Winifred Mary Shepherd, of Bovey Tracey, Devon, left estate valued at £550,795 net.

Hilda Irene Smallman, of Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands, left estate valued at £648,462 net.

Ida Nancy Gabrielle Starling, of Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £828,308 net.

Lavinia Mary Stephens, of Ipswich, left estate valued at £530,018 net.

Brian Frank Warren Thomas, of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, left estate valued at £504,649 net.

Elizabeth Rosemarye Tyer, of Rotherfield, East Sussex, left estate valued at £566,019 net.

Beno Vasi, of London NW2, left estate valued at £723,353 net.

Constance Mylanwy Vincent, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, left estate valued at £550,153 net.

Kathleen Marie Virgo, of Great Hivings, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £588,670 net.

Hubert Hedley Wassell, of Mumbles, Swansea, left estate valued at £814,179 net.

Dorothy Mary Watts, of Inslip, Kettering, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £702,657 net. She left £1,000 to Northamptonshire Baptist Association and to the Baptist Missionary Society; £500 to Wollaston Derby and Joan Club and to TEAR Fund; £100 each to RSPCA, National Canine League and RSPB.

Catherine Whalley, of Whitchurch, Shropshire, left estate valued at £741,455 net.

Gerald Saumarez Whittuck, of Hampstead, London NW3, left estate valued at £635,666 net.

Thomas Henry Wilkinson, of Thirkleby, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £577,206 net.

James Williams, of London NW1, left estate valued at £551,098 net.

Birthdays today

Today is the 46th anniversary of the accession of the Queen.

Rabbi Lionel Blue, author and broadcaster, 68; Mr Nicholas Brett, former Editor, *Radio Times*, 48; Sir Denys Buckley, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 92; Mr Peter Cadbury, company chairman, 80; Mr Tim Ewart, broadcaster, 49; Mr John Flemming, FBA, Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 57.

Professor Roger Greenhalgh, vascular surgeon, 57; Professor J.E.C. Hill, FBA, former Master, Balliol College, Oxford, 86; Miss Gayle Hunnicutt, actress, 55; Mr Patrick MacNee, actor, 76; Mr Denis Norden, scriptwriter and broadcaster, 76; Mr Manuel Orantes, tennis player, 49; Mr Ronald Reagan, former American President, 87; Mr Brian Simpson, MEP, 45; Mr Jimmy Tarbuck, comedian, 58; Mr Fred Trueman, cricketer, 67; Mr Keith Waterhouse, writer, 69; Mr Kevin Whately, actor, 47.

Award

The German Ambassador presented Gerhard H. Storch, chief executive and managing director of Hoechst UK, with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany at the German Embassy yesterday.

University news

Queen's University of Belfast
The university will confer honorary degrees this year on the following:

LLD:
Mary McAleese, President of Ireland and pro-Vice Chancellor of the university, for services to the university and to the community
Sir Gordon Beveridge, former vice-chancellor of the university, for services to the university and to higher education
Dr Martin Naughton, group executive chairman, Glen Dimplex Group, for services to industry in Northern Ireland and worldwide and to the university

DLit:
Maeve Binchy, novelist, for distinction as a writer
Professor Roy Foster, for distinction as an historian

DSc:
Professor Raymond Flannery, for distinction as a physicist
Trefor Campbell, managing director, Moy Park, for services to the food manufacturing industry and the community

DSc (Eng):
James McWha, for services to aerospace engineering

DMus:
Evelyn Glennie, percussionist, for distinction in music

DSSc:
Professor Charles Handy, for services to management education
Mrs Indrani Manuel, for services to higher education in Malaysia and to the university

DMedSc:
Dr Henrietta Campbell, Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland, for services to medicine in the community

DUniv:
Dr Mary Peters, Olympic gold medallist, for services to sport and the community

DSc (Eng):
Hew Hiloen On, head of the school of technology, Tunku Abdul Rahman College, Kuala Lumpur, for services to higher education in Malaysia and to the university.

UMIST
UMIST is to award honorary degrees to the following on June 17:

DSc
Mr Joe Dwek, non-executive chairman, Bodycote International
Professor R.L. Gregory, FRS, Emeritus Professor of Neuropsychology at Bristol University

DEng
Professor G.F. Hewitt, FRS, Professor of Chemical Engineering at Imperial College
Mr Roger Kingsley, former managing director, Lankro Chemicals Group

Church news

Appointments
The Rev John Townsend, Vicar, Hornsey Christ Church (London), to be Vicar, Forty Hill Jesus Church (same diocese).
The Rev Martin Warner, Administrator of The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (Norwich): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Hempton Holy Trinity and Pudding Norton (same diocese).
The Rev Gordon Warren, Assistant Curate, Laleham All Saints (London): to be Vicar, Limehouse St Anne (same diocese).
The Rev Barry Wilson, Curate, Styvechale St James (Coventry): to be Vicar, Chesterton Holy Trinity (Lichfield).
The Rev Peter Yacomeni, Vicar, Wick w Doynton and Dyrham, and Rural Dean of Bitton (Bristol): to be Chaplain, May Moore Trust, and Chaplain, Malmesbury Hospital (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations
The Rev Patrick Goodsell, Vicar, Nonington w Wymynswold and Goodnestone w Chillenden and Knowlton (Canterbury) to retire April 1.
The Rev John Read, Rector, Ditchingham, Hedenham and Broome w Earsham, Alburgh and Denton (Norwich) retired January 31.
The Rev Christine Withers, Priest-in-Charge, Standon and Cotes Heath (Lichfield) to retire April 30.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Christopher Marlowe, dramatist, Canterbury, 1564; Queen Anne, reigned 1702-14, St James's Palace, London, 1665; Sir Henry Irving, actor, Keinton Mandeville, Somerset, 1838; Frederic William Myers, poet and co-founder of the Society of Psychical Research, Keswick, 1843; George (Babe) Ruth, baseball champion, Baltimore, Maryland, 1895; Ramon Novarro, silent film actor, Durango, Mexico, 1899; Claudio Arrau, pianist, Chillán, Chile, 1903; Wladyslaw Gomulka, Prime Minister of Poland 1956-70, Krosno, 1905; Bob Marley, singer and songwriter, St Ann's, Jamaica, 1945.

DEATHS: King Charles II reigned 1660-85, London, 1685; Lancelot (Capability) Brown, landscape gardener, 1783; Joseph Priestley, Presbyterian minister, chemist, discoverer of oxygen, Northumberland, Pennsylvania, 1804; Gustav Klimt, painter, Vienna, 1918; Ellen Wilkinson, trade unionist and politician, London, 1947; King George VI reigned 1936-52, Sandringham, Norfolk, 1952; Marghanita Laski, writer, London, 1988.

King James II acceded to the throne, 1685.

Seven Manchester United players were among those killed in an air crash at Munich, 1958.

France and Britain agreed on the building of a Channel tunnel, 1964.

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BIRTHS

BEESLE-WILLIAMS - On 26th January, at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Liz and Peter, a son, Christian Milson Thomas.

BRAAM - On February 1st 1998 in Amsterdam, to Michèle (née Hendricks) and Nico, a beautiful son, Angel Nicholas Antony.

BROWN - On February 4th, to Maggie (née Rigney) and Colin, a rock 'n' rolling son, Marc Kenneth, a brother for Laura Louise.

HOCKNELL - On January 30th, to Anna (née Bruce) and Edward, a daughter, Chloë Patience, a sister to Henrietta and Catherine.

HOWARD - On 1st February 1998 at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, to Sarah (née Davies) and Graham, a son, Charles.

HUSSEY - On February 3rd 1998, to Emma (née Shelley) and James, a daughter, Helena Susan, a sister for Rose and Arthur.

HILEY - On January 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Patricia and John, a daughter, Alexandra Hiley.

JAQUES - On February 2nd 1998 at St Thomas' Hospital, to Jennifer (née Flynn) and Andrew, a wonderful son, Henry George Andrew.

KELLY - On 5th February 1998 at Romsey Hospital, to Yve and Simon, a son, David James Brett, 9lbs 4oz, a brother for Matthew.

LE MARCHANT - On January 16th, to Fleur and Silvia (née Pearson), a son, Edward Charles Carey, a brother for Olivia.

MATTHEWS - On Monday February 2nd 1998 to Sarah and Chris, a lovely daughter Milly.

PEGLER - On January 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Julie (née Bennet) and David, a daughter, Isadora Rose, a sister for Eloise.

BIRTHS

QUINCEY - On 31st January, to Paul and Dorothy Anne, a son Thomas Richard; a little brother for Robert and Pippa.

REINHAM-BAKER - On 29th January, to Patricia and David, a beautiful daughter, Millie Alice.

ROSS - On 4th February 1998, at La Clinique Ste Isabelle, Paris, to Francesca (née Richards) and Alastair, a son, Alexander Christopher Kenneth Gordon, a brother for Antonia.

SWITCHER - Sir Tom and Lady Farmer, Edinburgh, are pleased to announce the birth of their third grandchild to their daughter Sally and son-in-law Nigel Swycher, a brother for Emma Scott and Adam Thomas.

THORNHILL - On 31st January, to Alexandra (née Hindley) and Alexander, a stepping son, Giles Hugo, a brother for Sophia.

WHEELER - On January 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Chris (née Rucker) and Nick, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for Tom.

WILLIAMS - On January 29th 1998, to Madeleine (née Hamilton) and Christopher, a son, Hamish Ernest Hamilton.

DEATHS

CLARKE - Graham Emmanuel, died suddenly on Wednesday 4th February 1998. Beloved husband of Rachel Clarke. Private funeral service.

GASKELL - On February 3rd in St James Hospital, Leeds, aged 69 years, Philip, dearly beloved husband of Shelagh, loving father of William, Gillian and John and Godfather of Jo. Funeral Service and cremation at Lawnswood Crematorium, Leeds on Friday February 13th at 12.30 pm. Everyone welcome at home afterwards. Flowers may be sent to John F. Tempest Funeral Service, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, tel: (0113) 2392700.

DEATHS

GOODISON - Robin Reynolds peacefully at Rome in Bushey, much loved husband of Patty, father of Sarah, Susie and Lucy, and brother of Ruth. He also leaves seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two loving nieces and a godson. Funeral on Sunday 15th February at 12 noon at St James' Parish Church, Bushey High Street and afterwards at Falconer Hall, Falconer Road, Bushey. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to St James' Youth Club Treasurer at 36 Bournehall Avenue, Bushey, Herts. WD2 2AX.

HARDWICK - Barry on February 4th peacefully at home with his family, much loved husband and best friend of Yvonne, loving father of Lynne and grandfather of Davide. Funeral at St Margaret's Church, Rottingdean on Monday 9th February at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research.

HOLDEN - On 3rd February 1998 at her home in Chesterfield Jean Barham (née Sedgewick) retired dental surgeon. Beloved wife of Gerald G.P. Holden O.B.E. and dear mother of Peter, Christopher and Elizabeth. Funeral Service at Chesterfield Parish Church on Tuesday February 10th at 2 pm followed by burial at Ashover Cemetery. Family flowers only, but donations to Ashgate Hospice c/o Hasmenhys, 211 Chatsworth Road, tel: Chesterfield 232820 would be appreciated.

JOHNSON - John Edward M.C., late Regional Director of the Midland Bank, on 3rd February at Edgeworth Court Care Centre. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. Family flowers only please, donations for Star and Garter Home for Disabled Servicemen and enquiries to Sellin Smith & Co., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, tel: (01242) 525353.

MACRAIR - James Stuart Cunninghame. Died suddenly at Basingstoke District Hospital on January 31st aged 66. Ever devoted and loving wife Caroline and five proud sons Edward, Martin, Duncan, Hugh and Roger miss him so very much. Service at St Mary's Bentrop, Basingstoke 2.30pm Monday 9th February. Private family burial afterwards. Flowers to Alexander & Dry, 1 Seal Road, Basingstoke RG21 7HQ, tel: 01256 844663.

MORRIS - G.W. Bden died with fortitude on 4th February aged 91. Remembered with love and admiration by daughter Letty, son-in-law John, grandchildren Eleanor and Timothy; cousins especially Raynes and Patrick Minns and family. Contact (0171) 435-4795.

PARKER - Donald Thomas peacefully on 5th February 1998 at his home in Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. Husband of Elizabeth. Private family funeral. Enquiries and donations if desired for Macmillan Nurses may be sent to A Abbott & Sons, Bedford Road, Rushden, Northants. NN10 0LZ, tel: (01933) 312142.

RAPPOLT - Walter, beloved husband of Didi, uncle of Michael and Lisa, and respected great-uncle of Mark and Nicholas, died peacefully in his sleep at home on 2nd February aged 100. Funeral Service at 11am on 14th February at Golders Green Crematorium. No flowers please. Donations to Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 20 Buckingham Street, London WC2.

TRITTON - Patrick Claude Henry died February 1st in Mexico peacefully in his sleep. Beloved husband of Georgina.

TAYLOR - On 3rd February 1998 as a result of a tragic accident Michael adored husband of Margaret, much loved father of Richard and Andrew, father-in-law of Georgina, proud grandfather of Lucinda and Augustus. Private burial. Service of Thanksgiving at St Michael's Church, Betchworth, on Thursday February 12th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for the Hunt Servants Benefit Society and The Albino Fellowship may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking, RH4 2EB, tel: 01306 882266.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Norma Lady Dalrymple-Champneys will be held in the Chapel of Oriel College, Oxford, on Saturday 28th February at 2.30 pm.

VERNON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Jane Olivia Vernon will be held at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea on Monday March 2nd at noon.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

DIX, MAR - Norman Rose CBE died 6th February 1994. Remembered always with deepest love, admiration and gratitude.

HASTINGS - Sylvia Ida. On this Second Anniversary loving thoughts and treasured memories remain for always. Leslie.

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL ARTHUR BROCKLEHURST

Major-General Arthur Brocklehurst, CB, DSO, Deputy C-in-C of the British Army of the Rhine, 1957-61 died on January 2 aged 92. He was born on July 20, 1905.



A highly professional gunner, "Brock" Brocklehurst made his name commanding the 30th Field Regiment of the 4th Divisional Artillery during the Italian Campaign, taking part in the battles of Cassino, Lake Trasimeno, Florence, the Gothic and Rimini Line, and the Romagna rivers in 1944. It was only in the last ten years of his military career that he joined the "all arms" command and staff stream of the Army, which led to his becoming Deputy C-in-C of the British Army of the Rhine at the end of his long military career.

Calm, clear-headed and firm in action, Brocklehurst was a cheerful, friendly man who led by example and encouragement. In later life, the laconic "Brock" mellowed into "dear old Brockie".

Educated at King's School, Canterbury, and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, Arthur Evers Brocklehurst was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1926. His early service was mostly in India with the 15th Field Brigade RA, during which he described himself as a dabbler in all sports and games: shooting three tigers; playing rugby and squash for the Gunners; and whipping in for the Royal Artillery Drag.

He was given his "Jacket" at Woolwich in 1934, and posted to L (Nery) Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, in the autumn of 1935. Just before the outbreak of war in 1939, he was sent out to Malta, but was soon posted back to G Battery (Mercer's Troop) in the 5th Royal Horse Artillery with the British Expeditionary Force in France.

But he missed seeing action during the German Blitzkrieg in France in 1940 because, a few days before the German offensive in the West began, he was posted back to England to attend the Staff College. He then spent the whole of 1941 as brigade major of the 48th Divisional Artillery, standing by to defend the beaches of the West Country against possible enemy assault, and most of 1942 instructing at the Canadian Staff College.

Active service came in the spring of 1943 when he was appointed to command 30th Field Regiment in French North Africa during the final battles for Tunis. Thereafter, he was constantly in action with his regiment whenever General Dudley Ward's 4th Division was in the line, and often supporting other divisions when it was not.

In the decisive last battle for Cassino, he put up a most impressive performance, remembering innumerable registered targets and switching the fire of his own regiment — and sometimes of others as well — from one target to another without pause or error: a masterly example of artillery command for which he was later awarded the DSO.

In the immediate postwar period, he continued in artillery appointments, apart from five months as assistant adjutant and quartermaster-general in Trieste in the winter of 1945–46, until he was selected for the Imperial Defence College in 1954.

From Belgrave Square, he was appointed to the Adjutant-General's Staff as deputy director of personal services. As such he represented the War Office on the first Armed Forces Pay Review Body which was set up in 1955 to bring Service pay into line with the requirements of all regular forces in anticipation of the political decision to bring National Service to an end. He argued the case successfully for the introduction of terminal grants, designed to help servicemen purchase their own homes on retirement. In 1956 he was appointed CB — an unusual honour for a brigadier.

Promoted major-general, he went out to Malaya in the autumn of 1956 to become the last Chief of Staff of Malaya Command as the anti-terrorist campaign was drawing to its successful conclusion. He had the task of insuring the smooth and harmonious transfer of operational responsibility to the Malayan Armed Forces on *Merdeka*, the independence of Malaysia, a year later.

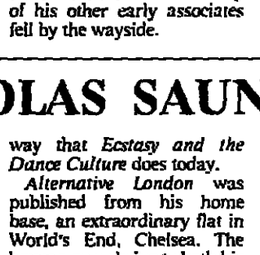
On return from Malaya in 1958, he commanded Rhine District for a year before taking up the post of deputy commander-in-chief BAOR, first, to his old divisional commander of the 4th Division, General Sir Dudley Ward, and then to General Sir James Cassels, the future Chief of the General Staff. He retired from the Army in 1961.

In retirement he devoted himself to local political affairs in Wiltshire and to the Royal Horse Artillery Association.

He married Joan Beryl Parry-Cooke in May 1940. He is survived by her and by their twin daughters.

DENNIS SELINGER

Dennis Selinger, film and theatrical agent, died on February 2 aged 76. He was born in Brighton on July 20, 1921.



AMONG his colleagues, Dennis Selinger was famous for two things: having invented the "package", whereby an agent puts together in advance the complete set-up for a film production — producer, director, writer, principal cast-members — and presents it to a production company; and secondly for his extraordinary generosity in pressing upon producers the actors he thought right for the roles, whether or not he was actually representing them.

He represented three screen James Bonds — Sean Connery, Roger Moore and George Lazenby — but, more remarkably, he was nagging away at Cubby Broccoli, the Bond series producer, to use Pierce Brosnan, who was never a client of his firm ICM, for years before Brosnan was actually cast in the role.

Selinger was born in Black Rock, Brighton ("a bad day for Black Rock," as he used darkly to observe). He was the youngest child of an entrepreneur, and was largely brought up by a much older sister. When she married a theatrical agent called Monty Lyons, he went to work in Lyons's office at the age of 14, and the Lyons became his surrogate parents.

He booked his first act when he was 16: a fan dancer from the East End, and was still waiting for his commission 60 years later. He soon became an important part of the Lyons business, and when Lyons finally decided to retire he joined with some friends of his to set up a new agency which eventually became ICM. The friends happened to be three brothers called Lew and Leslie Grade and Bernard Delfont.

At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the Army, serving for much of the war as a gunner in Burma. Unfortunately, he contracted some form of fever and had to spend a lot of time chafing on the sidelines. But by way of compensation, he saw a young hopeful called Peter Sellers in a camp entertainment, suggested to him that he might have a future in show business, and continued to represent him for the rest of his life. In his capacity as agent and friend of Sellers, Selinger had much to do with the putting together of *The Goon Show*, and managed to stay on good terms with Sellers when many of his other early associates fell by the wayside.

The Goons were not the only comedy team upon whom he had a crucial influence. Ernie Wise recalls that when he and Eric Morecambe first got together, they took along their comic act in some trepidation to show Selinger. Selinger watched in silence, then, when they asked if he thought they had any potential, said "First buy yourselves decent suits, then get a funny song, and I think you're in business."

Among the other grandees he represented, and regarded as friends, were David Niven, Michael Caine, Bob Hoskins and Ben Kingsley. Many remember him affectionately as a great bailer-out of faltering careers and impoverished clients. Jeffrey Archer recalls that when *Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less* came out as a book he was in desperate financial straits, and turned to Selinger for help. Selinger sold the television rights of the book for precisely £1, which seemed an unlikely way of doing it. But the gamble paid off: interest was created, sales of the book were boosted, and Archer as a result went on to his triumphantly bestselling career.

When Faye Dunaway was going through problems at the time of her divorce from Terry O'Neill, it was Selinger who pulled her out of them and got her back to work.

Selinger was married once, to Deborah, literally the girl next door. Although they divorced two years ago, she continued to live next door and remained his constant companion and closest friend. There were no children.

ROBERT SCRIBNER

R. W. Scribner, historian, died of cancer on January 29 aged 56. He was born on September 6, 1941.



FEW historians have so transformed the understanding of an era of Europe's past as Bob Scribner did with his studies of the German Reformation. His life coincided with an innovative period in the writing of history and he embraced questions of social history, anthropology and new ways of studying images. Above all he was able to chronicle and understand late medieval and early modern religion, as lived — communally and practically — and to explore the Christian lives of townspeople and villagers as rich webs of ritual, belief and doubt.

With a left-wing commitment to the understanding of what a "popular religion" might be, Scribner never romanticised or condescended to the peasants or artisans who practised it. He realised that men and women were engaged above all in a struggle for survival within the family, the workshop, the village, the region. Their struggles often led to cruel labelling and exclusions — of vagrants, of witches — and their religion offered remedies, consolation and badges of identity. He also helped to chart the decline of "magic" as large parts of Europe became "disenchanted" of their medieval beliefs.

Robert William Scribner came to Britain from Sydney, Australia, at the prompting of his teachers. In 1969 he began doctoral reserach on the Reformation in Erfurt, and his first appointment was at Portsmouth Polytechnic. In 1981 he moved to Cambridge as a history lecturer (later reader) and a fellow of Clare College, alongside the historians Geoffrey Elton and Roger Schofield.

The 1980s were a remarkable decade for Scribner as he blossomed in Cambridge's rigorous environment. In 1981 he published *For the Sake of Simple Folk: Popular Propaganda for the German Reformation*, a study of the use of images in the religious controversies in the period of the Reformation. He was the first to understand how in a largely oral culture Lutheran propaganda was spread deep and wide through images.

The following years saw a stream of innovative and influential articles, including "The incombustible Luther", in which he charts the rise of a cult around a woodcut of Martin Luther which remained unscathed when a fire burnt down the hut that it adorned, even though Lutheranism in the region had rejected the worship of holy images.

Scribner realised that though the world may change almost beyond recognition, popular mentalities change only gradually, and his sensibility was well attuned to these evolutions. He aimed not to show previous eras and beliefs as irrational, but to explore their creativity. Ritual life was shown by him to be much more than routine participation in traditional patterns of behaviour such as the mass or the Corpus Christi procession. Ritual life provided patterns through which the world was understood and within which strife could be expressed. He often compared it to jazz, with several playing different tunes, around a shared motif, producing a rich, sometimes discordant, but often harmonious concerted effort.

Perhaps more than any recent historian, Scribner came close to practising what French historians call *histoire totale*, a kind of writing that brings economic, cultural and political considerations to bear on closely observed situations. His sense of material aspects of life, of the rhythms of work, the seasons and reproduction became apparent in his essay "Ritual and popular belief in Catholic Germany at the time of the Reformation" (1984). He was equally an expert on popular print, high theology, the intricacies of the guild system, education, liturgy and agrarian work in the early modern Germany.

He spent many a summer in grey and uncomfortable libraries of the old East Germany unearthing the traces of the life of the Reformation through its cheap print images, its witchcraft trials, its proverbs and diaries. His enthusiasm and energy were prodigious and he earned the respect and approval of both Catholic and Protestant scholars in Germany, where he often lectured in German.

Scribner also collaborated with Peter Burke in running a seminar on issues of social and cultural history which became a meeting point for Europeanists, historians of India, China and Latin America. Although he was shy, the students he nurtured discovered a fund of generosity and dedication. He thrived on joint editorial ventures, producing fine volumes on the renaissance. Especially close to his heart was a volume of essays by his graduate students, *Popular Belief in Germany and Central Europe, 1400-1800*, which he edited with Trevor Johnson (1996).

Practising a humane and sophisticated history, he showed that the Reformation was a war about much more than theologies, and was won not in a single battle, but over a long period.

Scribner took a chair in the Divinity School at Harvard in 1996, but a few months later it became clear that he was ill with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Lois, and by their son and daughter.

NICHOLAS SAUNDERS

Nicholas Saunders, businessman and alternative culture guru, died in a road accident on February 3 aged 60. He was born on January 25, 1938.

NICHOLAS SAUNDERS is best known as the writer of *E for Ecstasy* (1993) and *Ecstasy and the Dance Culture* (1995). He also created a website to provide information, positive and negative, to a public increasingly interested in Ecstasy and other recreational drugs.

He spent the last years of his life experimenting cautiously with Ecstasy and other hallucinogenic drugs, to which he felt himself to be indebted. He felt his first Ecstasy experience to have been an impetus in a life-long search for self-realisation. It was typical of Saunders that he would share his personal experience and the information he researched.

Starting in 1970, Saunders pioneered and published *Alternative*, the forerunner of such publications as *Time Out*. The spirit of the Sixties excited his sensibilities and he felt it vital to share his experience with as many people as possible. *Alternative London's* many editions appealed to a whole generation of experimenters, in much the same way that *Ecstasy and the Dance Culture* does today.

Alternative London was published from his home base, an extraordinary flat in World's End, Chelsea. The house was a shrine to both his design skills and his love of animals. A large pond ran from the garden into the sitting room, where ducks swam and dived among bemused visitors; upstairs a family of rabbits played on the roof garden.

After a fire caused by one of his most bemused visitors, he relocated his domestic zoo to Neal's Yard, Covent Garden, in 1976, when it was an almost derelict collection of warehouses.

Neal's Yard will always be linked with Saunders's name. He lived and worked in the Yard, renovating decayed warehouses. The buildings he created are reminders of an eccentric nature which was forever juggling a love of city life with a romantic attachment to the pastoral. The façades are festooned with sweet peas, geraniums, clematis and sunflowers in season.

Saunders had foreseen the emergence of Covent Garden as the "new place". Feeling he sensed a trend towards a more holistic way of life, he created a bulk-buying wholefood warehouse, offering healthy food at the lowest possible prices. Thereafter followed a string of businesses which are testament to his entrepreneurial insights.

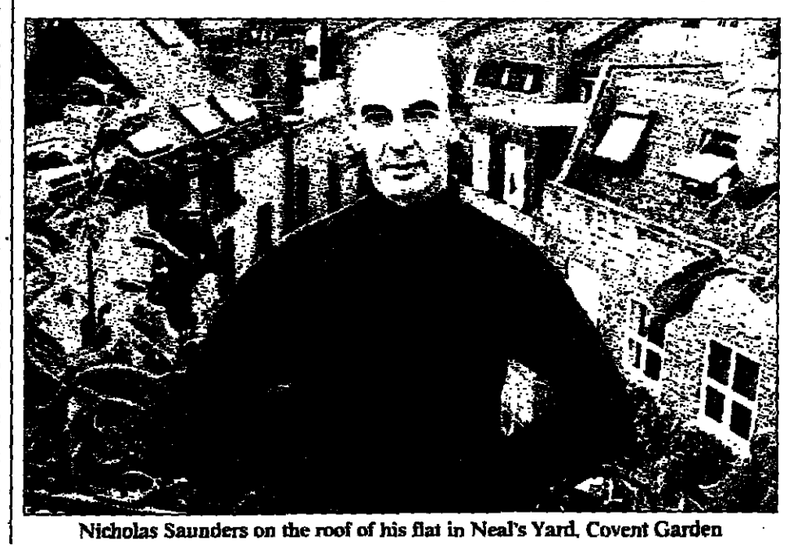
His interest lay in designing the simplest and most effective systems to get these businesses off the ground. But once they were operational, he handed them over to friends and colleagues, many of whom owe their success to his inspiration and help. He recently created a self-contained guest flat in his house for the many friends he had made on his extensive travels.

Several years ago he bought a forest in Surrey, the outcome of having spent many Saturdays walking in woodlands within easy access of London. It was on one such walk that he met and fell in love with Anja Dashwood, with whom he was to live until his death.

He had been recently researching a book about hallucinogenic plants and ritual practices among various religious sects; this work took him and Anja on many adventurous journeys across the US, South America and Europe.

It was on one such journey of exploration, this time to South Africa, that he was killed in a car accident.

He leaves behind his partner, Anja, and a son from a previous relationship.



Nicholas Saunders on the roof of his flat in Neal's Yard, Covent Garden

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ROSS MAY STEPHENS. Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of Ross May Stephens of Compton House, 20 Lyncroft Gardens, Ealing, London, W13 9PD who died on 31.12.1997 and whose Will dated 31.1.1991 appointed Paul Adam Lask Executor thereof are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or interest to the undersigned by 7th April 1998 after which the Executor will distribute the Estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which he has had notice. Dated 30th January 1998. Signed: Keith Hunt Partner & Co Address: 422 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middx, UB6 9AG Solicitors for the Executor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL NOTICES

LOCALMAGE LIMITED AND DAINTYRISE LIMITED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that meetings of the creditors of the above named companies will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 20 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London, W2 6LG on 17th February 1998 at 12.00 noon and 12.01pm respectively for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meetings concerning Liquidation Nomination. However the meetings may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the amount of remuneration of the Liquidators and consenting the adoption of the statement of affairs and convening the meetings. A list of names and addresses of the above companies creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 563, 20 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LG, between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors. Dated this 2nd February 1998. R. Pegum, Director.

G. W. Management Limited (In Administrative Receivership) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Lynwood House, 373/375 Station Rd, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AW on 12 February 1998 at 2.00pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Lynwood House, 373-375 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AW not later than 12 noon on 11 February 1998. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Lynwood House, 373-375 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AW before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given, and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Lynwood House, 373-375 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2AW between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above. Graham Philip Addy Director

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PARKING METER PLAN PASSED

The Minister of Transport has decided to authorize a pilot parking meter scheme for Westminster. He expects that it will take Westminster City Council about three months to instal meters and bring the scheme into operation. The scheme covers a small area comprising Park Lane and Oxford Street as far south as the southern boundary of Grosvenor Square.

Mr. Nugent, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport, announcing the Minister's decision in the House of Commons yesterday, said:

"We have received applications for orders authorising the use of parking meters from the Westminster City Council and the St. Marylebone Borough Council. In the case of the Westminster area, we have now received the reports of the inspector who held the inquiry and of the London and Home Counties Traffic Advisory Committee, whom we were bound to consult.

"They both advise us to proceed with the scheme. We have considered this advice and decided to accept it. We shall proceed, therefore, to make the necessary order . . ."

Mr. Nugent stated that the report of the St. Marylebone inquiry had not yet been received.

Westminster City Council's intentions were said at the public inquiry to refer to about four miles of highway. Within the area it was intended to provide bays to accommodate 658 cars at any one time. Surveys had shown that the area was now used to park up to 1,315 cars, a level "substantially too high for reasonably free movement of traffic," it was stated.

Under the proposed arrangement cars or vehicles would be allowed to pick up or set down goods or passengers for up to 20 minutes, except on some stretches near intersections. Public service vehicles and invalid carriages would be exempt from the provisions of the scheme, and there would be free parking space in eight places for motor cycles and scooters.

The annual expenditure on the scheme was estimated at between £15,000 and £16,000, and it was expected that annual revenue would amount to £3,000. The result, it was hoped, would be to stimulate commercial provision of facilities for more off-street parking.

There were more than a score of objections at the inquiry from organisations representing residents, motorists and commercial interests. Among them was Westminster Chamber of Commerce, a spokesman of which yesterday expressed disappointment that the Minister had made such a decision without considering provisions for more off-street parking facilities. The chamber had no objection to parking meters as such, so long as all motorists using the roads had somewhere to go, he said.

A similar attitude was defined yesterday on behalf of the standing joint committee of the Royal Automobile Club, the Automobile Association, and the Royal Scottish Automobile Club. "Any London experiment with parking meters will be premature until off-street parking facilities are provided . . ."

ON THIS DAY

February 6, 1958

This pilot scheme in Westminster became a national institution, as parking meters spread across the country. They were first used in America in 1935.



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صكذا من الأصل

Robert Whymant reports on a year of events to enhance UK-Japan relations

In an Olympian spirit

People are curiously reluctant to let nuances get in the way of a comfortable stereotype. For many Britons, Japan conjures up a mix of geisha girls, *Madame Butterfly* and workaholics. Likewise, Japanese fondly cling to what they learnt at school — that the English are all gentlemen with umbrellas in foggy cities.

Stereotypes will not fade easily, but events this year may help the two countries to view each other in a broader, fresher light. The Japanese are being treated to a flood of new images of Britain through Festival UK'98, described as a year-long celebration of Britain's culture and lifestyle. And in May, the Emperor and Empress of Japan are scheduled to visit Britain, a trip that officials hope will help to banish old perceptions and promote better understanding. This is also a year in which Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is due to visit Britain twice. He is scheduled to attend the second Asia-Europe summit hosted by the United Kingdom in April, and the G8 summit to be held in Birmingham in May.

Tony Blair set the tone for a "special year" in Britain's relations with Japan when he visited Tokyo in January for talks with Mr Hashimoto. He launched the festival, called for more Japanese investment, and banged the drum for Britain as a "country of energy and dynamism and creativity". Most importantly, perhaps, he made a deep impression with his informal, cheery manner.

Certainly, Mr Blair did not conform to the impression of Britain gained from the Sherlock Holmes series and other period dramas popular with Japanese television and cinema audiences. To the Japanese, Mr Blair seemed to personify Britain's hip culture of music and fashion which has attracted a big following among Japan's youth, particularly young women. Press comment went well beyond the bland clichés normally reserved for visiting presidents and prime ministers.

"Blair is perhaps the most dynamic politician in Europe today," gushed the daily newspaper, *Mainichi Shimbun*. Another respected daily, *Asahi Shimbun*, contrasted Mr Blair's vigorous commitment to reforms with the inertia of Japan's own tradition-bound political leadership: "To the many Japanese turned off by stultifying politics, the British Prime Minister presented the image of a dazzling young leader."

Especially striking was the eagerness of many Japanese opinion-formers to hear Mr Blair's views on how Japan might overcome its financial woes and proceed with its own "Big Bang" of financial reforms and deregulation. His insistence on the need to make "hard choices" went down well with businessmen who want their leaders to act more boldly.

One senior industrialist noted that 100 years ago British engineers brought the first railways and waterworks to help Japan to modernise. "The know-how we most need from you today," he said, "is firm leadership and crisis management."

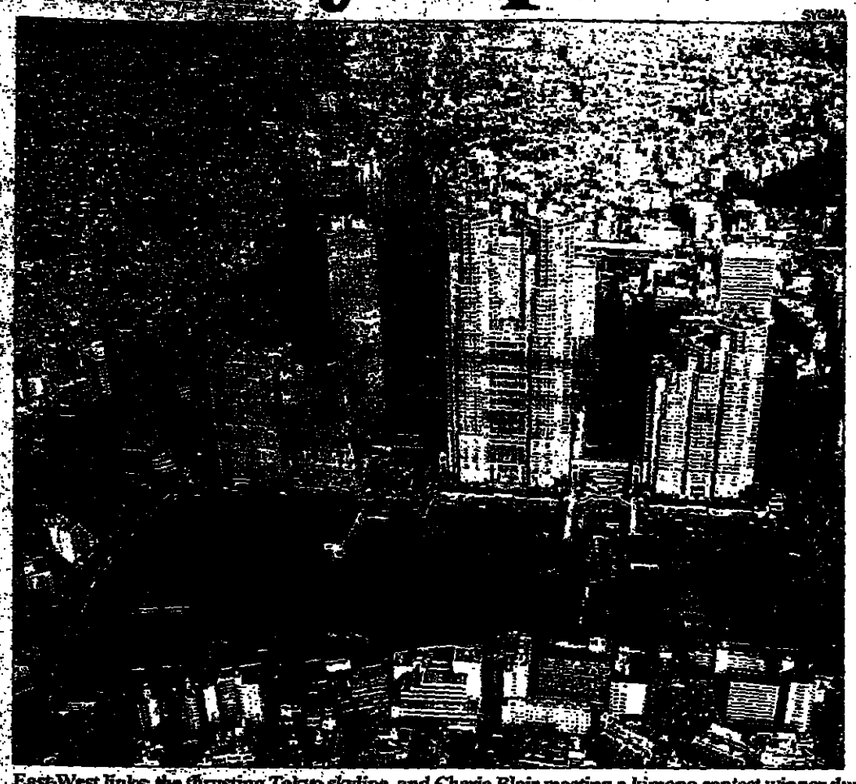
Mr Blair, accompanied by a high-powered team of British industrialists, brought into focus the "Action Japan" campaign which aims to increase Britain's presence in Japan. Japan is Britain's second largest market outside the European Union, and the campaign, launched by the Department of Trade and Industry in 1994, actively seeks to boost British sales in Japan and promote British investment there. "Action Japan" is a marriage of private and public sectors to explore new opportunities and foster intensive contact between British and Japanese companies at all levels.

It is often not fully realised that the great majority of the formal barriers to imports into Japan have been dismantled, and Japan's import tariffs are now lower than the OECD average. With the Japanese Government's recent agreement to lower the tax on imported liquor there are now very few areas where imports of interest to Britain are subject to discriminatory treatment.

The Festival UK98, presenting 250 aspects of Britain, including the Spice Girls and the designer Paul Smith, is likely to increase awareness of Britain's contributions to international youth culture. Gritty films such as *The Full Monty*, *Brassed Off* and *Career Girls*, screened as part of the festival, will remind Japanese fans that Britain's film industry is not all Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy.

Indeed, *The Full Monty*, which played to full houses after its release in Tokyo, looks like spawning another phrase to join the thousands of English words digested whole by the Japanese language.

Mr Blair helped by giving a major speech in Tokyo in which he underlined Britain's determination "to go the full monty" in putting the economy on a secure footing for the 21st century. When the significance of the phrase was explained to baffled Japanese businessmen, many agreed that it summed up the do-or-die spirit that Japan needs to use to deal with its own pressing economic problems.

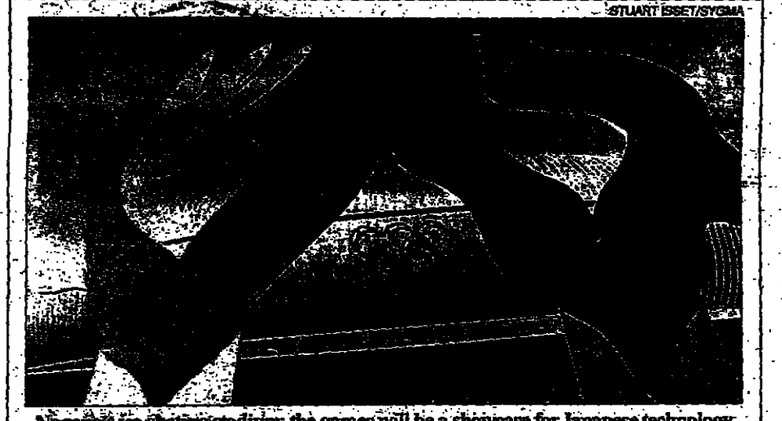




East-West links: the thrusting Tokyo skyline, and Cherie Blair meeting a kimono contest winner during her husband's visit to Japan last month

英国祭 festival UK'98

STUART ISSET/SYGMA



Nagano's ice-skating stadium: the games will be a showcase for Japanese technology

Games go all out to break records

Nagano aims for biggest and best Olympics, writes **Edwin Karmiol**

THE 18th Winter Olympics that open in Nagano tomorrow will be an Olympics of superlatives. Its organisers claim the 16-day event will be the biggest and best Winter Games ever staged. More than 3,500 athletes and officials — more than ever before — from 71 countries will participate in what has been branded as the costliest so far.

The construction of sports facilities and accommodation for the competitors exceeded 145 billion yen (£70 million), while the estimated operation costs of the games will amount to 103 billion yen. A further 1.2 trillion yen has been spent on the construction of new roads, bridges, tunnels and a "Bullet Train" line to the Olympic site. The high-speed Asama can cover the 220km (147 miles) between Tokyo and Nagano in 79 minutes instead of the three hours needed by conventional trains.

The Nagano games will also be a showcase for the latest in Japanese technology. Infrared sensors placed above the roads and a computerised transportation system will monitor the 1,730 coaches shuttling athletes and spectators to the venues. Buses will be equipped with a satellite navigation system, allowing the driver to check his position at any time. And in case of heavy traffic, the system will indicate an alternative route.

To reduce pollution and promote energy-saving systems, car manufacturers have provided for electric cars, natural-gas vehicles and hybrid buses.

NHK TV is planning a master stroke during the opening ceremony by synchronising the simultaneous performance of choirs on five continents, performing Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. The 2,000 singers in Berlin, Beijing, Cape Town, New York and Sydney will be led from Nagano by the internationally renowned Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa.

The challenge is to overcome the time delay of seven to ten seconds that it takes for the sound signals in satellite broadcasts to be relayed from the point of origin to the viewer. NHK has developed a "time-lag adjuster", a sophisticated recording system that stores several seconds of the video feeds in memory before synchronising and broadcasting them.

From five continents, choirs will simultaneously perform Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*

This "greatest chorus of the century" will then be beamed live to the world via satellite, 1½ to 4 seconds later.

The Olympics will also be an ideal turf for NHK to put into action an array of complex equipment devised specifically for the games.

The Birdcam, conceived for the Alpine ski-ing event, consists of a small camera attached to a glider that will slide down along a wire and move parallel to skiers for a distance of 150 metres at 90km an hour. The New Linearcam camera, sitting on a cart, will follow cross-country skiers. The speed of the cart (up to 50km/h), camera angles and zoom lenses are radio-controlled and will pick up the contestants' facial expressions.

In the biathlon events, metallic electronic targets have replaced those of paper and scoring the shooters' performance will thus be more accurate. To prevent unauthorised people getting hold of the rifles, an eye-scanning machine will "read" the athletes' irises to confirm their identities. Some Olympics officials will be provided with wrist-watch-sized mobile telephones, weighing a mere 40 grams, to communicate with each other. A voice-recognition system will enable the users to dial by speaking the number.

As for the security of athletes and visitors, police have mobilised 6,000 officers to prevent possible terrorist attacks. Authorities asked stores not to sell firecrackers and requested stationery shop personnel to remember the faces of people buying bottles of ink, as it could be thrown at VIPs. Drivers will also be asked not to park their cars with the boots facing streets where VIPs are expected to pass, as one was used some years ago by an extremist group as a launching pad for rockets hurled towards the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

The drive to hold on to superpower status

Reform and restructuring are vital if Japan, beset by sleaze and a weak economy, is to prosper again

Japan is going through an epic transformation to secure its future as an economic and technological superpower, *Robert Whymant writes*. So momentous is the process that senior diplomats refer to it as the "third opening", comparable to the opening when Japan emerged from feudalism in the 19th century, and after 1945 when it was reshaped by the Allied occupation.

Nothing happens overnight in this country, but a consensus has developed favouring quite radical changes. Once more, it is pressure from Western countries that has forced the opening. But there is also a domestic imperative. Burdened by a rapidly ageing population and rising social spending, the Japanese realise they will be unable to compete effectively in the 21st century without restructuring their economy and society.

Reform has become the catchword of Japan in the 1990s, particularly since Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto made it his political credo on taking office two years ago. The sweeping changes envisaged would streamline government and reduce the bloated bureaucracy, overhaul the financial system with "Big Bang" deregulation, and rebuild the economy to prepare for a society with fewer productive workers and more old people. Educational reform is also on Mr Hashimoto's agenda.

The proposals to foster free markets and open competition, if implemented, would meet the West's demands for more transparent business practices.

They would draw a line under the post-war era when the Government actively managed economic development with policies to nurture home-grown businesses and shut foreigners out of Japan's markets. This strategy helped Japan rebuild its modern economy after its defeat in the second world war, producing the "economic miracle," and a stable and equitable society.

But state management of the economy also produced the huge trade surpluses for Japan that are a continuing source of friction with its trading partners.

But events in the nineties, beginning with the plunge in asset prices after the bursting of the 'bubble' economy, have forced a reappraisal in Japan. The economy has slowed to the point of recession. The weakening of the yen, like the stock market collapse, dented national pride. But it was last year's collapse of financial institutions — and television images of anxious depositors queuing outside banks and securities houses to withdraw their money — that provoked the deepest unease.

The vogue word is *nihon-uri*, the selling of Japan, and the blame is laid at the door of political leaders and bureaucrats found to have been feathering their own nests as the economic and financial mess went from bad to worse.

Bureaucratic incompetence, and a series of corruption scandals that in recent weeks have tainted even the mighty Finance Ministry have destroyed the last vestige of public trust. Politicians, who have proved powerless to arrest the economic rot, have also earned the scorn of long-suffering taxpayers. For many, the last straw was Mr Hashimoto's proposal to use public money to shore up shaky banks which lent recklessly in the 1980s, and in some cases to have made huge payoffs to gangsters.

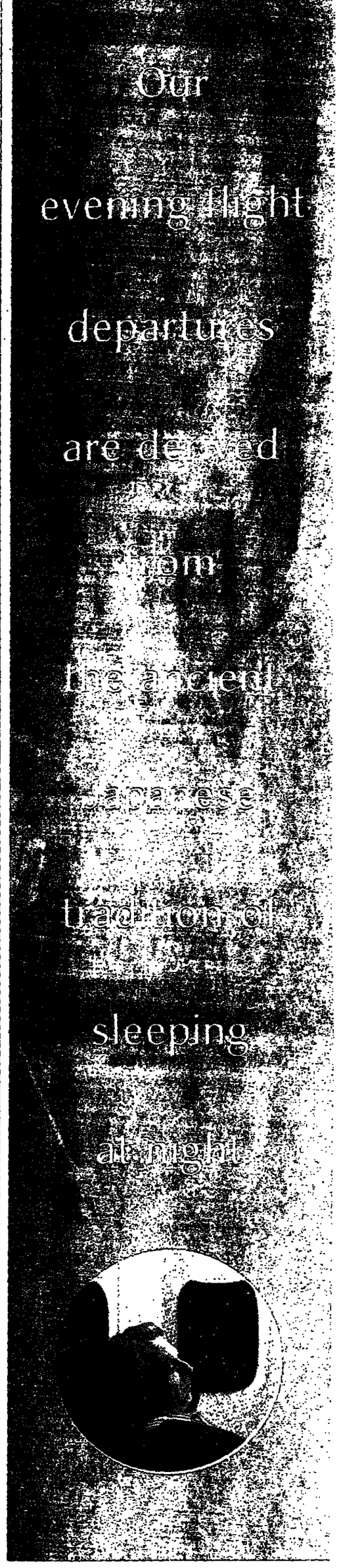
As if this were not sleaze enough, Japan was treated last month to the spectacle of the main Shinshinto opposition party splintering into six "new" parties, a move that prompted widespread derision. The break-up, underlining that Japanese politics are about money and personal ambitions rather than principles or policies, destroyed all semblance of effective opposition to the Liberal Democratic Party that has ruled for most of the postwar period.

The only political party with a clean reputation is now the small and moderate Japan Communist Party, which has stayed aloof from the various coalitions and realignments, and benefited from frustration with all the other parties.

The glimmer of hope is that outrage at the political and bureaucratic establishment may force the pace of badly needed reforms. Sceptics are dubious that Mr Hashimoto has the will to carry through revolutionary changes that would break the "iron triangle", the vested interests of bureaucrats, politicians and big business — with which he is identified. Optimists say Japan must break away from an old system that does not work any more.



Nagano centre, before the arrival of the sports fans



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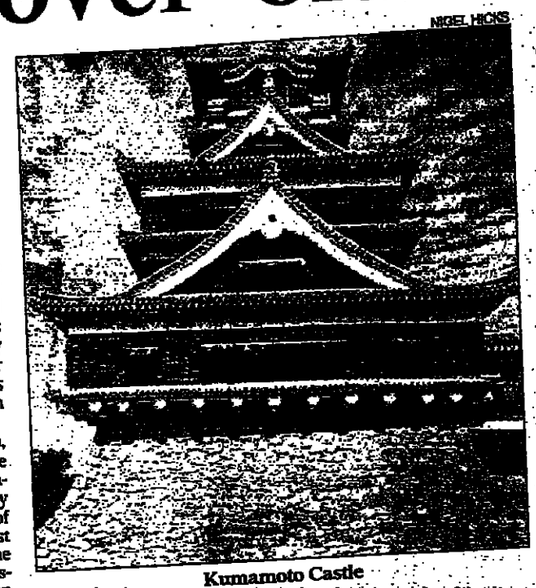
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Kumamoto Castle

Robert Whymant on the sensations awaiting the intrepid traveller

Japan has seldom been better value for the British tourist, with the pound buying a lot more yen than five years ago, and the economic crisis in the region reducing the flow of Asian tourists and thus the pressure on prices of tourist accommodation.

Every visitor will want to see Kyoto, the imperial capital for more than 1,000 years, and savour its serene Zen temples and gardens. The journey from Tokyo could not be easier — each day 100 bullet trains hurtle between the two cities in a little over three hours.

Whizzing towards Kyoto, Mount Fuji should be visible from the train window — unless hidden by clouds. In any case, the majestic cone of Japan's holy mountain is best enjoyed from a distance — the unholy piles of rubbish discarded by pilgrims come as an awful shock if you actually try to climb it.

Possibly the most delicious sensations await the intrepid traveller who decides to break away from Tokyo and head for a spa in search of what some guidebooks on Japan describe as the "ultimate experience".

Parboiling in volcanic waters of around 40C in rustic surroundings under the stars is the quintessential Japanese form of relaxation. The Japanese are passionate about bathing, and take delight in performing ablutions in the company of others. So the visitor should be prepared to share the ultimate experience with strangers.

For additional amusement, the visitor might seek out the outdoors *konyoku* (mixed bathing) pools, which can still be found in most hot spring resorts, though women more often head for the segregated baths. The Japan Spa Association would have one believe that the enthusiasm for hot springs is primarily medicinal — a search for health and rejuvenation in therapeutic waters. But the Japanese are less fanatical about the benefits of a cure than the Germans, also keen spa-goers.

Here, people soak for hours, the only concession to modesty a handtowel, and the Teutonic habit of imbibing the waters is eschewed in favour of beer or rice-wine. A hot spring is a place to make merry.

So it makes sense to plan an overnight stay at a resort hotel, even though their baths are open to non-residents for a small fee. The most accessible spas — about an hour by train to the west of Tokyo — are those of Hakone and Atami. But the traveller with a little more time is well advised to push deeper into the Izu Peninsula, to enjoy spectacular coastal scenery and tranquillity. Around Koura, a tiny fishing port near the southern tip, the rhythms of life have changed little since the Meiji era. Three hours from Tokyo by train and bus, and you enter a different world.

A short distance inland is the sleepy spa town of Shimogamo, where foreign faces are a rarity. A row of delightful hotels line the river, and none are exorbitantly expensive. Perhaps the most agreeable is the Ikona, whose clientle includes some well-known authors and scholars who come here for peace and quiet. They immerse themselves in little cottages set in a gorgeous garden to labour over their manuscripts. A couple of days at this elegant inn, with its *tatami* (reedmat floor) and sliding screens and kimonoed attendants — and a splendid communal hot spring pool overhung by cherry trees — is probably as close as the foreign tourist can hope to come to the elusive dream of discovering the "old" Japan.

Japan's famous corporate business spirit harks back to its feudal history

Teamwork is legacy of the shogun past

WHY IS teamwork so important to Japanese business, and why do the Japanese so often engage in group activity? The historical roots of whether social groupings are organised collectively or individually as in England are deep and run through the entire society, *Ruth Taplin writes*.

Both Japan and England had feudal systems with peasant villagers and noble lords with knights to defend the latter, but what largely led to individualism was decentralisation. The state in England was a loose structure, with the clerics, monarchy and nobility all having different levels of power over land and people. No one group or individual held absolute power, which gave peasants freedom from serfdom by the 15th century, allowing them to become tenant farmers, owning and buying land and having a say over their working conditions. Such freedoms gave rise to notions of individual rights, individualism and democracy.

Japan, on the other hand, had a tightly structured and centralised state system. State power rested with functions such as tax collection which gave rise to powerful bureaucrats. Religion played little part, all power resting with the lords (*daimyo*), who were served by knights, the *samurai*, who in turn demanded absolute loyalty and obedience from the peasants.

Society was based on paternalistic groupings which demanded that those under them worked hard as a group and were obedient. The head of a group of vassals for example, was responsible for collecting taxes and giving them to the government tax collector; he therefore ensured that everyone worked hard, which required a collective effort.

By the Tokugawa period (1603-1867), while the English were conquering lands and the seeds of entrepreneurship were giving rise to the Industrial Revolution, the centralised Japanese Government was being headed by the strongest *daimyo*, a *shogun* (generalissimo), who placed heavy burdens of taxation and demands of service on the peasants who made up 80 per cent of the population.

Unlike England, where those of individual merit or talent could rise and improve their rank in society, in Japan it was forbidden to change class. The harshness of this form of feudalism was softened by a paternialistic relationship called *oyabun/kobun* whereby the former had the status of the parent and the latter that of a child. The *oyabun* looked after the *kobun* and his dependents while the *kobun* was always ready to offer services to the *oyabun*.

These tendencies for hierarchy, paternalism and working together as a group survive in the corporate organisations of today despite fundamental economic changes that have occurred since industrialisation in the 20th century.

● *This is taken from Dr Taplin's book,* Decision-making and Japan: A study of corporate Japanese decision-making and its relevance to Western companies, *Japan Library 1995.*



هكذا من الاصل

The Japanese have stopped spending and begun saving, says **Robert Whymant**

Tighten belts and bow to the inevitable

On the surface, Japan does not seem to be on the edge of recession. The bars of Shinjuku throb with karaoke, and Ginza nightspots still attract *spendthrift* clientele. At weekends, elegant young women throng the smart shopping district of Aoyama.

But statistics paint a picture of an ailing economy that is likely to get worse before it improves. Bankruptcies reached a record high last year and a new wave of company failures seems inevitable. Unemployment in December hovered near the 3.5 per cent postwar high registered the previous month. The Government forecast of 1.5 per cent growth for 1998 looks optimistic to many economists.

Japan's woes stem mainly from government measures last spring, including a sales-tax rise, an end to special income-tax rebates, and higher medical costs. This fiscal tightening caused a sharp fall in consumer spending, which accounts for three fifths of growth, and choked a fragile recovery. Expecting hard times, the Japanese have tightened their purse-strings. Many are putting off buying houses and consumer goods. Upmarket stores may be bustling, but each month they report a drop in sales. Japan's free-spending shoppers now seek bargains, and discount shops are prospering.

The Government maintains that Japan is not in recession. But last month, the Economic Planning Agency admitted the economy was at a standstill, and said the risk of prolonged stagnation had risen because worries about *failing* banks and securities houses were undermining confidence and affecting the real economy.

Last month the Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, acknowledged that the sales-tax rise was ill-timed. To placate critics, he won parliamentary approval for two trillion yen ($15.1 billion) in income-tax cuts to undo some of the damage caused by his fiscal tightening, along with an extra budget for public works projects. Mr Hashimoto told Parliament in January: "It is my strong determination not to allow a financial or economic depression [in Asia] to start from Japan."

P. PERRIN/SYGMA



Tokyo Stock Exchange: plunging share prices have hurt national pride

Pressure from inside the ruling party is forcing him to consider additional measures to expand demand. Business leaders insist economic recovery must take priority over the Government's goal of reducing the fiscal deficit, now among the highest in the industrialised world. Mr Hashimoto is also under pressure from Washington, which sees in Tokyo's surging trade surplus — up nearly 42 per cent with the US last year — evidence of Japan trying to export its way out of a slump.

In the absence of domestic demand, and with their Asian markets in turmoil, Japanese manufacturers are boosting exports to America and Europe. This is unacceptable to Washington. Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, has urged Japan to help Southeast Asia out of its crisis by expanding its market. He emphasised that Japan is the key to restoring financial stability in Asia.

But Japanese leaders say they cannot help the rest of Asia without first getting their own economy back on track. And recovery hinges on restoring public confidence. The dramatic collapse of Yamaichi Securities and several other financial institutions deepened worries about the health of Japan's financial system. Worse, scandals exposing corruption in the Finance Ministry have sown doubts that the bureaucrats can put things right.

Banks saddled with massive bad debts, a legacy of reckless lending in the 1980s, are reluctant to lend, and the squeeze is forcing more bankruptcies. Even workers in big companies question how long they can rely on Japan's jobs-for-life system. Nervous about the future, the Japanese are saving for a rainy day — and they expect many. Individuals have amassed $14 trillion, a third of the world's total savings, earning next to nothing in interest. Millions are shifting their funds to post office accounts.

The Government plans to inject up to $227 billion of public funds into the banking system to guarantee deposits and — more controversially — to boost banks' capital base by purchasing their preferred shares. There is widespread resentment that the public is having to finance a bail-out of banks plagued by ineptitude and corruption.

National pride has been hurt by plunging share prices, the fall in the yen and the glee with which some have written off Japan as a world power. But the obituaries are premature. More than half of Japan's industries are prospering, while the rest are stagnating. Blue-chip multinationals such as Toyota, Sony and Canon have never been stronger, bolstered by low interest rates, cuts in production costs and the weaker yen. It is a safe bet that Japan will emerge from hardship fitter and more resilient.

How investment in foreign markets keeps industry ahead

Wheels that circle the world

The Japanese automotive sector is growing at 15 per cent a year, with car manufacturers moving ahead rapidly in research, particularly in the development of "environmentally friendly" engines and the improvement of relations with local suppliers. In 1996, Japan produced 10.3 million vehicles, the second largest number and marginally behind the United States, with 11.7 million. The UK occupied eighth place, with 1.9 million units. The Japanese, in their quest for excellence, have been looking to the UK for specialist research and invention.

Toyota's total manufacturing investment in the UK has reached £1.5 billion. Its most recently announced £150 million investment at its Deeside engine plant in North Wales will supply a new small passenger car to be built in Valenciennes, northern France. The investment will create about 310 jobs, bringing the total workforce at Deeside to around 600 people.

In 2001, the new engine plant will be operational. A castings plant open by 2000 will provide aluminium engine components for the Avensis and Corolla models being made at Toyota's Burnaston plant in Derbyshire, as well as the new small car to be made in France. This second engine plant will increase Deeside's overall production capacity to 350,000-400,000 units.

As part of the Toyota Eco-Project, a highly advanced "clean" hybrid power system using a petrol engine, electric motor and electric generator has been produced. This is the type of unit to be made on Deeside for powering mass-produced cars.

From its conception in September 1948, Honda has followed a strategy of globalisation through localisation, working alongside local suppliers. Profit from its operations is recycled back into the local economy through reinvestment in the form of technical collaboration, joint ventures with local capital and the sub-contracting of production. In terms of purchasing, an international perspective is kept with Honda purchasing from where they produce and buying from suppliers who help to satisfy customer needs.

In the UK Honda is expanding at its manufacturing plant in Swindon, creating a further 400 jobs and bringing the total employment on the site to just under 3,000. Last year was another record year for the company both in Britain and globally. UK car sales passed 55,000 units and account for nearly 60 per cent of the total number of Honda cars sold in the UK.

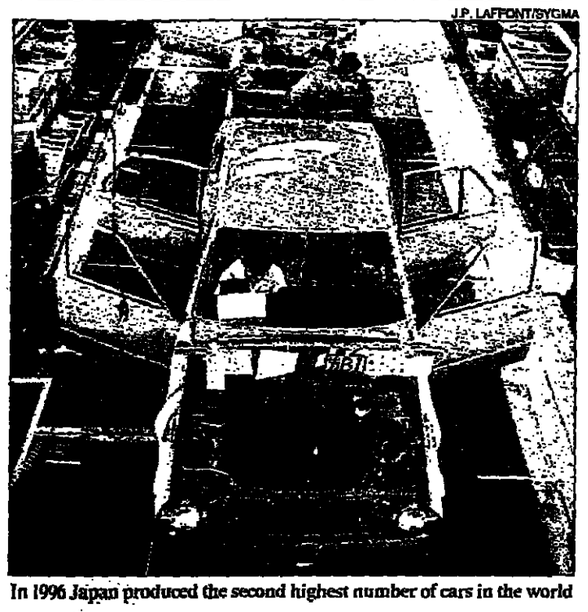
Nissan has been heavily involved as project managers of a programme of research with Cranfield University to improve co-development with suppliers. COGENT is a three-year programme of research which will cost £2.5 million, with 80 per cent coming from industry. The main aim is to improve the ability of UK component suppliers to develop designs in conjunction with manufacturers.

Ian Milburn, the Nissan European Technology Centre's deputy managing director, says: "Design and development of a product accounts for 80 per cent of product cost, quality and performance. To remain competitive, we must get design and development right."

Nissan has one of the longest histories of manufacturing abroad of all Japanese car companies, having built its first foreign plant in the Sixties in Mexico. Its Sunderland operation was opened in the UK in 1986.

RUTH TAPLIN

J.P. LAFFONT/SYGMA



In 1996 Japan produced the second highest number of cars in the world

The economy opens up

A huge local market is luring UK and other foreign business

The changes in Japan's economy are making the country a more open economy in which to invest. UK companies which are investing are confident that they will reap the long-term benefits.

Japan, with the second largest capital reserves, continues to be the world's second largest economy. Its *per capita* GDP is more than £20,000.

The size of the Japanese market may be understood through comparison. Its GDP is more than five times the size of the UK's, more than France, Germany and Italy's combined and more than twice as large as the rest of the other big Asian economies. Even the Kansai region, where Osaka is based, has a GDP greater than that of Canada. Japan remains the second-largest trading nation in the world, accounting for more than 70 per cent of Asia's GDP.

Long-term challenges for Japan include an uncompetitive financial sector and a growing national debt, along with one of the biggest ageing populations in the world.

Over-borrowing by managers in the large Japanese corporations, who were not restrained by shareholder pressure, is slowly changing as the wishes of shareholders are taken into account. This means that short-term pressure for financial restraint will result in fiscal belt-tightening, which will have a beneficial effect on the overall economy.

Deregulation in a once highly regulated economy is taking place rapidly. Five Bills were passed in the Diet (the Japanese Parliament) recently to allow deregulation of telecommunications. After total domination, NTT and KDD now have real rivals.

Despite the temporary slump in domestic demand that has taken place after a period of post-recession renewed growth, British exports have been growing at about 14 per cent a year since 1991. Sir David Wright, the British Ambassador in Tokyo, notes that Britain's market share is expanding as the big European competitor economies, Germany, France and Italy, are contracting. Services have shown a healthy surplus over the past decade and nearly half of exports are in heavy machinery, industrial components and motor vehicles. The high-technology sector is also expanding.

UK imports from Japan are mainly electrical machinery and equipment products, accounting for £2.5 billion — which is about 30 per cent of Britain's imports from Japan in 1996.

The festival UK 98, which was opened by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in Tokyo in January, is a testament to the emphasis on trading relations between Britain and Japan, the UK's second-biggest trading partner after the US and Western Europe.

This was underlined by Sir Colin Marshall, the president of the Confederation of British Industry who led the delegation accompanying the Prime Minister, when he noted that the Japanese business leaders had expressed a great deal of interest in learning about the British business environment under the new Labour Government and about the developments in Europe, particularly the move towards economic and monetary union and the single currency.

An indication of the determination of British business to enter the Japanese market is the establishment of the British Industry Centre, which the Prime Minister opened in Yokohama. In Japan, even more than in other markets, it is important to show commitment by being close to the customer base.

Japan has been difficult for some investors because of the language difference, the high cost of renting accommodation and hiring local staff. The British Industry Centre now offers low-cost office accommodation, with support services provided by the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan, at Yokohama Business Park, with support services provided by the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan. The city of Yokohama has a population of more than 30 million and has a GDP of £11.4 trillion.

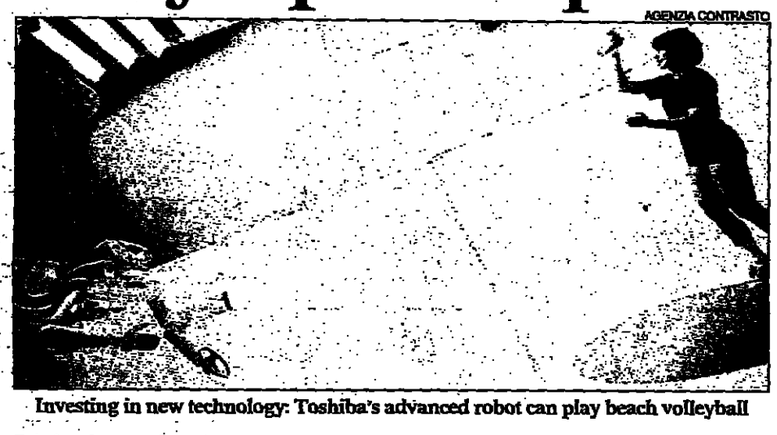
Britain's trade with Japan has been in credit every year except 1992.

In 1996 the surplus was £1 billion. The current account includes trade in goods and services and investment income and transfers.

Japan is Britain's tenth-biggest export market. In exports to and imports from Japan machinery is the largest item from both sides.

RUTH TAPLIN

AGENZIA CONTRASTO



Investing in new technology: Toshiba's advanced robot can play beach volleyball

British design continues to influence local fashion

Traditional way to sell style

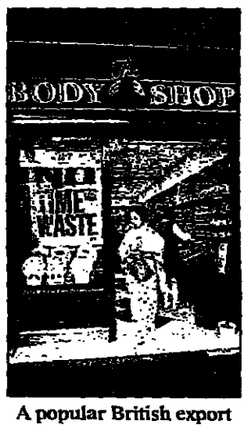
Clothing and textiles are Japan's second-largest import, worth roughly £12 billion (2,484 billion yen), and Britain provides £232 million of this business. Japan has taken over from the US as the No 1 export market for British clothing and accessories, writes Ruth Taplin.

Image is a key factor when the Japanese buy clothing and accessories and the British traditional images such as the country gentleman are admired. However, the younger generation of 25 to 35-year-olds, who have a larger disposable income than their European counterparts, are seeking quality clothes of an individual distinctive nature.

One traditional company that is doing well in Japan is Traditional Weatherwear, which has its 100-year-old roots with Charles Mackintosh, who was the inventor of the rubberised cotton coat known as the Mac. Though it has been exporting to Japan for ten years, over the past 12 months its business has trebled to more than £1 million, through marketing the brand and the image and being sensitive to changing trends.

The Walpole Committee is an example of the success of promoting British traditions of excellence based on heritage in design, craftsmanship and service. It is a group of 36 companies that produce luxury goods of the highest quality. Jeremy Franks, chief of DAKS Simpson and chairman of the Walpole Committee, notes that although based on tradition, marketing for the companies is firmly rooted in modern needs and requirements. Franks is keen to promote the idea of "Created in Britain" underlining the wealth of creative and innovative talent which appeals to Japanese clientele.

DAKS is no longer British-owned, but Sankyo Seiko, its owner from 1991 after being the licensees in Japan for 21 years, has left it to do what it does best: offer quality clothing goods in the best British tradition. This is a case of inward/outward investment benefiting both Japanese and British market.



A popular British export

The great dilemma facing the Japanese: financial protection or free choice

Big Bang still rumbling through financial services

SERVICES are Britain's third biggest export to Japan after machinery and vehicles. The largest sector of service exports, at £450 million, is finance and insurance, and after that comes air transport, Ruth Taplin writes.

Japan's financial services sector is the one that has the most weaknesses. These have been exposed by the "Big Bang" process of allowing more competition from abroad. The Japanese financial system worked well when it was only for the Japanese. The weaker and less successful elements were protected; for example, in the spirit of egalitarianism, casualty insurance was based on the idea of "mutual aid". Policyholders with low loss rates paid higher premiums than their risks would require, and policyholders with high loss rates paid less than their risks would require. From July this year, however, insurers will be free to set their own rates.

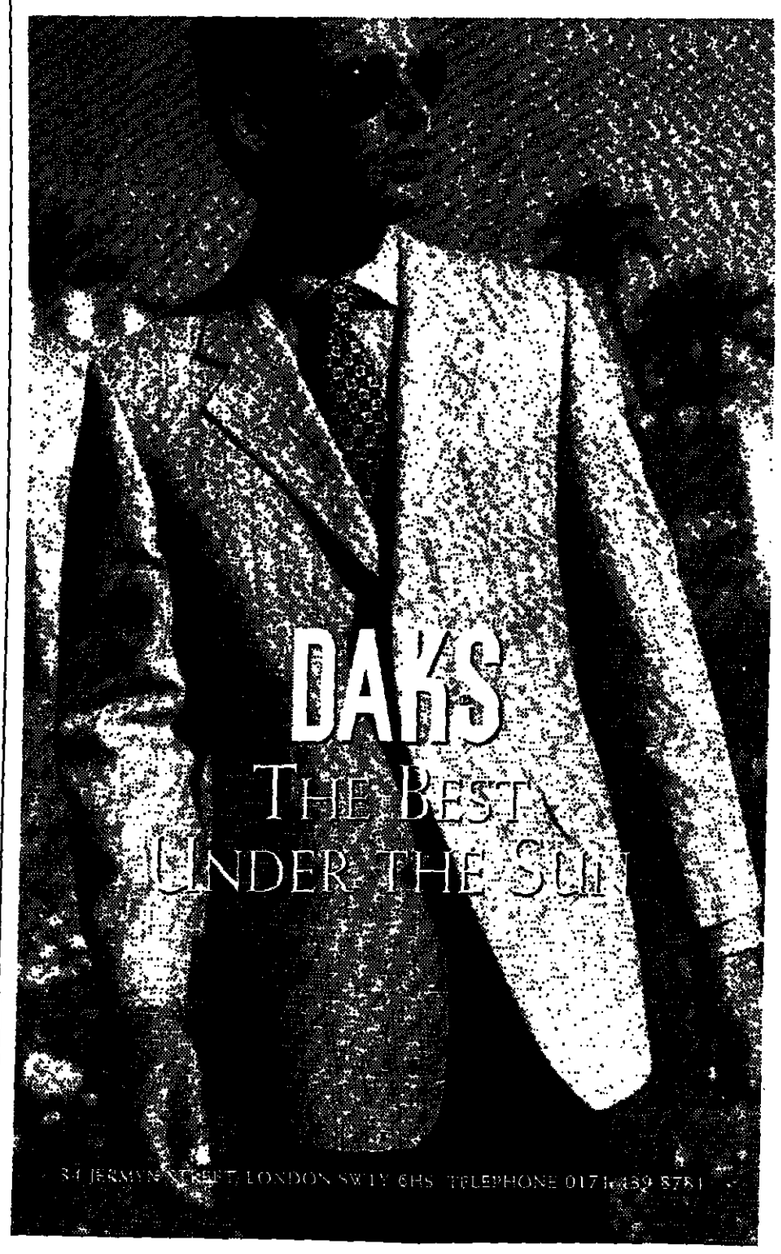
And therein lies the dilemma for the Japanese public. Do they cling to highly regulated, expensive financial and insurance services that protect them from their own foibles, or do they take individual responsibility for choice, which, having traditionally been dependent on the parent/child relationship, is something they are not psychologically equipped to handle?

The competition that has already been introduced has seen weaker companies, such as Yamaichi, which had management problems for several years, fall by the wayside. It is a new phenomenon to let the weak fail rather than to bolster the stronger parts of the organisation.

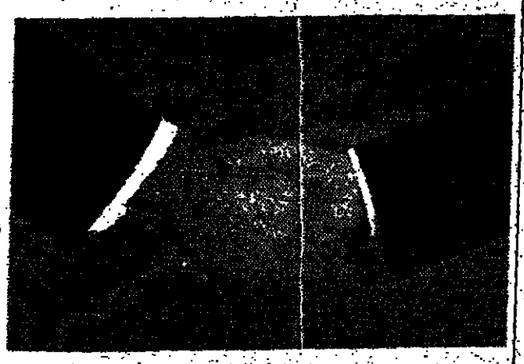
Despite all this, the economy is bouncing back and even in 1996 amidst all its difficulties, the Japanese economy outgrew that of the United States by 1.5 to 1 and Germany's by almost 2.5 to 1.

THE fundamental question is how will the people be rewarded for amassing a third of the world's savings, equal to almost twice the annual gross national product of the US? Japanese savers receive the world's lowest rates of return on savings.

As the population ages and looks to living on the interest rates of their savings, the Japanese financial institutions need to manage much more efficiently the funds that have been saved so diligently, so that old people will have a better quality of life and the means to be a part of consumer demand to enliven the economy.



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NEWS

Blair gives Clinton full backing

■ Tony Blair gave President Clinton his wholehearted personal endorsement as a leader and a friend when he promised Britain's full backing for any military strike against Iraq, applauded the President's political achievements, and brushed aside the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Mr Clinton predicted that Britain and America could blazon a path for the world and congratulated Mr Blair on the "exhilarating challenge" he had issued ..... **Pages 1, 12, 13**

Cheers for widow cleared of murder

■ A widowed piano teacher jailed for life for the murder of her husband's aunt was cleared at the Old Bailey after a four-year campaign to prove her innocence. As the jury delivered its verdict on Sheila Bowler, 68, the packed public gallery erupted with loud cheers ..... **Pages 1, 5**

Privacy law row

Lord Irvine of Lairg was out on a limb after his suggested privacy rules that could block revelations about politicians were rejected by fellow ministers ..... **Page 1**

No 10 attacks

The BBC was denounced as "down market, dumbed down, over-staffed and bureaucratic" by the Prime Minister's official press spokesman ..... **Page 1**

No 10 recruits

Tony Blair is following the tradition of British spymasters in recruiting the brightest and most trusted graduates to join the first work experience programme at Number 10 ..... **Page 2**

Sex case criticism

Prosecutors were criticised after three boys were cleared of molesting a nine-year-old classmate. Police promised a review of the way in which young children are questioned about alleged sex offences ..... **Page 3**

Test ban

Teachers were advised by researchers to stop awarding gold stars or marks out of ten if they want to help pupils realise their full potential ..... **Page 6**

Shake on it

A magistrate persuaded a motorist who accused the Premiership football manager Ron Atkinson of assaulting him, to settle the case with a handshake ..... **Page 7**

Temptation defended

The Bishop of Norwich, has broken ranks and spoken out in defiance of plans to remove the word "temptation" from the Lord's Prayer. He will argue in the General Synod against a modern-language version ..... **Page 9**

Healthy future

The Government launched a public health drive to cut the number of deaths from cancer, heart disease, suicides and accidents by 15,000 a year ..... **Page 10**

Flying visit

One flight to the Isles of Scilly, by a bird never before recorded in Britain, has led to a dozen other flights a day for hundreds of bird-watchers ..... **Page 11**

German jobs protest

Angry Germans stormed job centres throughout the country in protest against the Kohl government's policies on unemployment which has broken all post-war records ..... **Page 14**

Low flying controls

The Italian Defence Minister, announced that the Government was preparing tighter controls on low level flights, in the wake of the ski-lift tragedy ..... **Page 15**

Clarke denial

Arthur C. Clarke denied that he had ever paid for sex with boys, describing it as "one of the most revolting charges ever laid against anybody" ..... **Page 17**

Attenborough's film flies into trouble

■ Five weeks sweat and toil for David Attenborough's television crew in a tropical jungle was made useless by a new airport security system. Unknown to the BBC team the film they took with them to Papua New Guinea was damaged by X-rays at Manchester airport. The crew working on *Birds of Paradise* was shooting with useless film ..... **Page 1**

ROHAN SULLIVAN / AP



A two-hour thunderstorm that raged across the Sydney skyline left 15,000 homes without power and several buildings damaged

BUSINESS

Halifax: Britain's biggest mortgage lender stepped up competition by scrapping the controversial mortgage indemnity fee for most of its borrowers ..... **Page 29**

Pensions: Gartmore and PDFM, two of the biggest pension fund managers in Britain, are suffering from client defections after successive years of poor performance ..... **Page 29**

Economy: The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee left base rates unchanged at 7.25 per cent ..... **Page 29**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 10.6 to 5606.4. The trade-weighted sterling index fell from 105.2 to 104.4 after a fall from DM2.9900 to DM2.9608 but a rise from $1.6533 to $1.6550 ..... **Page 32**

SPORT

Cricket: England lost early wickets on the first day of the second Test against West Indies in Port of Spain. Atherton was out for 11 and at tea they were 120-4 ..... **Page 56**

Rugby union: Officials at the Stade de France, where England are due to play France in the Five Nations Championship, issued further assurances that the match was in no danger from the weather ..... **Page 56**

Football: Jurgen Klinsmann could be back in the Tottenham Hotspur team in three weeks despite breaking his jaw in the FA Cup defeat at Barnsley ..... **Page 54**

Winter Olympics: The eighteenth Winter Olympics, the most southerly held, are to begin in Nagano, Japan, with 2,450 competitors from 72 countries ..... **Page 52**

ARTS

Impure thoughts: "The notion that Britain can suddenly develop retrospective moral scruples about the lottery is absurd" — Richard Morrison comments on a week of hypocrisy ..... **Page 39**

Sizzling Bacon: Richard Cork traces four decades of risk-taking in the paintings of Francis Bacon now on show at the Hayward Gallery ..... **Page 39**

Righteous babe: Operating almost alone in a mostly corporate industry, Ani DiFranco could be rock's unlikeliest superstar: interview and album review ..... **Page 40**

Boy's own: Caitlin Moran tries to keep up with the conversational leaps of Toby Slater, the 19-year-old leader of alternative boy band Catch ..... **Page 41**



TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

■ MAKING UP IS HARD TO DO: Fleetwood Mac tell how to forgive and forget

■ AFFAIR OF THE HEART How Robert Bolt recovered from his stroke

RADIO & TV

Preview: Amanda Root as a coroner in rural Wales: *Mortimer's Law* (BBC1, 9.30pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond on hairstyles and the mid-life crisis ..... **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

Prior restraint

Lord Irvine's suggestion that the Press Complaints Commission exercise "prior restraint" on newspapers would take Government, press and citizens into new and dangerous territory ..... **Page 21**

Summit by seminar

The amount Blair can learn from President Clinton is, contestable. The "New Democrats" are a less than encouraging example for new Labour. The quest for an illusory "Third Way" is as credible as the goal of a third gender ..... **Page 21**

Two out of ten

Children come home excited when they have been given a gold star for good work. Now we are told that such practices should be eschewed because they "reinforce failure" ..... **Page 21**

MATTHEW PARRIS

War with Saddam looks likely — even imminent. And the funny thing is, I don't believe the British people feel at all strongly about this. I sniff it in the wind. We are unmoved. We are prodigiously indifferent ..... **Page 20**

JOHN LLOYD

Clinton meets in Blair a man who may still reform. It will take all the President's generosity to avoid a stab of envy for his guest. **Page 20**

PHILIP HOWARD

Until Churchill and Eisenhower, British Prime Ministers and American Presidents were usually bald. Hairlessness was taken as a symbol of tribal wisdom and statesmanship ..... **Page 20**

Cool rules: If it's cool, it must be cashmere ..... **Page 18**

Deadly doubts: An investigation into a murder and suicide at Harvard has led to suggestions that the university may be more concerned with image than truth ..... **Page 19**

Japan: On the eve of the Winter Olympics, a look at increasing co-operation between Europe and Japan ..... **Pages 25-27**

Nibbles: The British Book Awards, known as "Nibbies", have become the Oscars of the book world, celebrating achievements by authors, booksellers, publishers, designers and distributors ..... **Pages 36-38**

Raymond Snoddy: What viewers can look forward to when the 150 new channels begin ..... **Page 46**

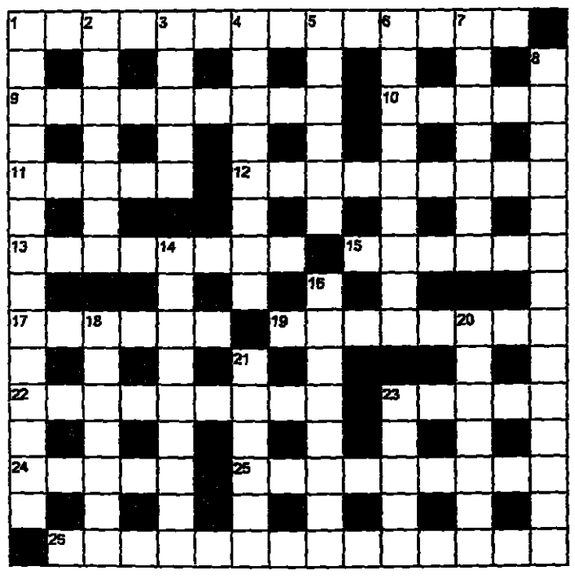
Superteachers: Will the proposals succeed? ..... **Page 49**

There will always be people with vital information who must remain anonymous. In the welter of allegations, the Lewinsky story also highlights the need for consumers to be editors — *USA Today*

Major-General Arthur Brocklehurst, Dennis Selinger, theatrical agent; **Robert Scribner,** historian; **Nicholas Saunders,** alternative culture guru ..... **Page 23**

Profit-making and lottery; Tory policy on family; taxation of barristers; Ovid translation; prostate tests; hunted deer; the price of fame ..... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,708



ACROSS

1 Mediator has problems with nose (14).
9 Surrendering, or retiring (7,2).
10 Story about bishop's companions at dinner (5).
11 Order apparent in the dictionary (5).
12 Extremely valuable staff in plant (9).
13 Cruel and silly about smell (8).
15 Return gold to companies in extravagant style (6).
17 Hose firmly attached to front of stirrup-pump (6).
19 Maximum score — that's excellent! (3-5).
22 Where traveller can pay for fare (9).
23 Queen's call to cut one article that's put in (5).

drv23,.5

Solution to Puzzle No 20,707

P	A	N	E	G	Y	R	I	C		I	M	B	E	D
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T		H		P		E		N		A		T		E
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		W		S		U		E				G		
B	E	E	C	H		T	O	O	T	H	A	C	H	E
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A	P	R	I	L		M	A	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R

24 Gain nothing after transporting new tree from New Zealand (5).
25 Fire not yet out — dressmaker brought back in to do needlework (9).
26 With robbery in progress, English woman 'ad to be confident (4,2,4,4).

DOWN

1 Wrong? Do it better then, until it's finished, however hard (2,3,6,3).
2 Like a man-eater, so upsetting one's husband (7).
3 Put up only one line inside (5).
4 Attractive engineer's getting on (8).
5 Worker with the French name (6).
6 Gathered together now and then to run riot in search of entertainment (2,3,4).
7 Prohibit English doctor going on expedition's vessel (7).
8 Toddler we had to get settled and sound asleep (4,2,3,5).
14 Light bowl splinters (9).
16 Extra number turning up, welcomed by old German dear (8).
18 Wild llama's manure spread round a crop, initially (7).
20 Time to walk? Utter balderdash! (7).
21 Prepare pitch for playing (4,2).
23 Makes fast, low run, followed by second (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 56

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.31 am	4.59 pm
Moon sets 3.25 am	Moon rises 12.38 pm

Full moon February 11
London 4.59 pm to 7.31 am
Bristol 5.09 pm to 7.39 am
Edinburgh 4.51 pm to 7.56 am
Manchester 5.01 pm to 7.44 pm
Penzance 5.24 pm to 7.47 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Scotland and Northern Ireland will be wet and windy with spells of heavy rain clearing to blustery showers by evening. Western Wales and southwest and northwest England will be mostly cloudy and breezy with drizzle turning to heavier rain by evening. The rest of England and Wales will be dry with sunny spells but it will tend to cloud over from the west later. Mild everywhere.

☐ **London, SE England, Cent S, E & Cent N England, E Anglia, Midlands:** mild and cloudy with sunny spells. Light to moderate southwesterly wind. Max temp 11C (52F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** mainly cloudy with drizzle. More widespread rain later. Moderate to fresh southwesterly wind. Max temp 11C (52F).

☐ **Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** patchy drizzle but mild. More widespread rain later. Moderate to fresh southwesterly. Max temp 11C (52F).

☐ **NE England:** mild and mostly cloudy. Rain later. Moderate to fresh southwesterly. Max temp 11C (50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** dry and mild. Cloudy. Rain by the afternoon. Fresh to strong southwest wind. Max temp 10C (50F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland:** mild but cloudy and blustery with rain. Fresh to strong southwesterly wind. Max temp 10C (50F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** many parts starting dry with a few bright intervals. Rain spreading southeast, heavy in places. Windy but mild. Max temp 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain will quickly clear eastern parts tomorrow to give a bright and cold day with sunshine and blustery showers. Sunday will start bright and chilly in the south; the north will see drizzle later.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud, d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.2	-	10	50	b	Kinloss	2.3	0.01	10	50	b
Anglesey	0.4	0.01	9	48	r	Leeds	1.5	0.01	11	52	b
Aspatria	1.5	0.02	9	48	r	Lerwick	-	0.62	8	46	r
Aviemore	1.2	0.02	7	45	r	Leuchars	0.3	-	9	48	b
Belfast	X	0.01	10	50	c	Littlehmptn	0.3	-	9	48	du
Birmingham	0.4	-	8	46	c	London	3.2	-	11	52	b
Bognor R	-	-	8	46	c	Lowestoft	7.1	-	10	50	s
Bournem'th	0.3	-	9	48	c	Manchester	1.7	-	11	52	b
Bristol	-	-	10	50	c	Minehead	-	-	9	48	c
Buxton	0.6	0.01	7	45	b	Morecambe	1.7	0.01	9	48	c
Cardiff	X	X	X	X	X	Newquay	2.3	-	10	50	s
Clacton	2.7	-	8	46	b	Norwich	6.7	-	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	2.1	-	11	52	b	Oxford	0.1	-	9	48	c
Cromer	6.6	-	10	50	s	Penzance	X	0.01	10	50	c
Eastbourne	1.6	-	8	46	c	Poole	-	-	10	50	c
Edinburgh	0.6	0.01	9	48	c	Prestatyn	X	-	10	50	b
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.13	7	45	sh	Ross-o-wye	X	-	9	48	c
Exmouth	-	-	9	48	c	Saunin Snd	-	-	9	48	du
Falmouth	0.3	-	10	50	c	Shrewsbury	0.7	0.01	9	48	r
Fishguard	0.3	0.01	9	48	sh	Skegness	X	-	-	-	-
Folkestone	2.9	-	9	48	b	Southend	3.0	0.01	10	50	b
Glasgow	0.2	0.05	9	48	sh	Southport	X	-	-	-	-
Guernsey	-	-	12	54	c	Southsea	-	-	9	48	du
Hastings	2.6	-	9	48	s	Stornoway	-	0.04	9	48	r
Hayling I	-	0.01	8	46	d	Swanage	-	-	9	48	c
Herne Bay	2.4	-	9	48	s	Tiree	0.4	0.07	10	50	sh
Hungerford	X	-	9	48	s	Torquay	-	-	10	50	c
Isle-of-man	1.0	0.01	10	50	b	Tynemouth	X	-	9	48	b
Isle-of-wight	-	-	9	48	c	West-s-mare	-	-	9	48	du
Jersey	-	-	10	50	c	Weymouth	-	-	9	48	c

ABROAD

Ajaccio	11	52	r	Corfu	14	57	f	Majorca	15	59	f
Alicante	18	64	c	C'phagn	2	36	r	Malaga	18	64	c
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Dublin	8	46	s	Malta	16	61	r
Algiers	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	8	46	r	Melb'rne	23	73	s
Amst'dm	6	43	s	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	X		
Athens	16	61	f	Florence	6	43	r	Miami	22	72	s
B Aires	21	70	c	Frankfurt	0	32	s	Milan	X		
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	18	64	s	Montreal	-7	19	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	0	32	c	Moscow	-8	18	sn
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Munich	-1	30	s
Barcelona	19	66	d	Helsinki	-13	9	s	N Delhi	20	68	s
Beijing	5	41	c	Hong K	11	52	r	N York	X		
Beirut	18	64	c	Innsbruck	0	32	s	Nairobi	25	82	s
Belgrade	2	36	f	Istanbul	11	52	r	Naples	13	55	f
Berlin	2	36	s	Jeddah	X			Nice	10	50	f
Bermuda	18	64	r	Jo'burg	28	82	s	Oslo	-9	16	c
Biarritz	10	50	c	Karachi	X			Paris	4	39	s
Borde'x	5	41	s	L Angels	12	54	s	Perth	28	82	s
Brussels	4	39	s	L Palmas	21	70	f	Prague	0	32	s
Budapst	4	39	s	Le Touqt	7	45	f	Reykjavik	-5	23	sn
Cairo	24	75	s	Lisbon	17	63	s	Rhodes	16	61	f
Cape Tn	25	77	f	Locarno	4	39	c	Rio de J	38	100	s
Ch'church	27	81	X	Luxembg	3	37	s	Riyadh	37	81	s
Chicago	-1	30	f	Lyon	28	82	s	Rome	11	52	c
Cologne	3	37	s	Madrid	10	50	f	S Fr'sco	13	55	s
S Paulo	X										
Salzburg	1	34	s								
Santiago	26	79	c								
Seoul	4	39	s								
Sing'por	31	88	f								
St'kholm	-7	19	sn								
Strasb'rg	1	34	s								
Sydney	27	81	f								
Tangier	14	57	f								
Tel Aviv	20	68	s								
Tenerife	19	66	d								
Tokyo	9	48	f								
Toronto	-3	27	f								
Tunis	19	66	c								
Valencia	12	54	r								
Vanc'ver	9	48	r								
Venice	7	45	f								
Vienna	1	34	s								
Warsaw	0	32	c								
Wash'ton	X										
Wel'ngton	21	70	X								
Zurich	-1	30	s								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: high A and high B will be slow moving with little change in pressure, and might merge; low J will drift eastwards and fill

RISE TIMES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	9'14	3.6	9'47	3.7	Liverpool	6'39	7.7	7'16	7.9
Avonmouth	2'00	10.5	2'45	10.6	London Bridge	8'59	6.3	9'47	6.4
Belfast	6'43	3.1	7'18	3.1	Lowestoft	4'41	2.3	5'40	2.5
Cardiff	1'46	9.9	2'31	9.8	Margate	7'03	4.2	7'55	4.1
Devonport	0'43	4.5	1'23	4.5	Milford Haven	1'24	5.6	2'04	5.5
Dover	6'18	5.7	7'05	5.6	Newquay	0'25	5.6	1'04	5.6
Dublin	7'28	3.7	7'55	3.6	Oban	1'44	2.9	2'39	3.1
Falmouth	0'14	4.3	12'54	4.3	Penzance	-	-	12'27	4.5
Greenock	7'27	3.0	8'21	3.0	Portland	1'24	1.5	2'00	1.4
Harwich	8'54	3.5	9'43	3.4	Portsmouth	7'01	4.1	7'42	4.0
Holyhead	6'03	4.8	6'36	4.8	Shoreham	6'32	5.4	7'11	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	1'11	7.7	2'10	7.4	Southampton	6'11	3.9	6'52	3.8
Ilfracombe	1'01	7.3	1'48	7.4	Swansea	1'22	7.7	2'04	7.8
King's Lynn	1'21	5.4	2'15	5.2	Tees	11'35	4.7	-	-
Leith	10'21	4.7	10'56	4.8	Weston-On-Naze	8'53	3.7	9'46	3.6

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Hawarden, Flintshire, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Spaldeadam, Cumbria, 06C (43F); highest rainfall: Lerwick,, Shetland, 0.62in; highest sunshine: Lowestoft, Suffolk, 7.1hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up of 4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

Under the weather?

The Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

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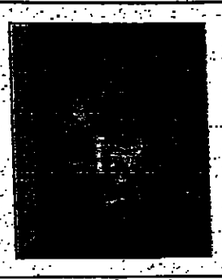
هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES 2

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6 1998

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

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Move puts rivals under pressure

Halifax scraps indemnity fee for mortgages

By Caroline Merrell

HALIFAX, the UK's biggest lender, has stepped up the mortgage war by scrapping the controversial mortgage indemnity fee for most of its new borrowers.

The move will cut the price of borrowing for those who have a deposit of 10 per cent or more by hundreds, and for some, thousands of pounds. Halifax will pay the insurance premiums, at the estimated cost of some £72 million a year. It would not disclose an exact figure yesterday.

Borrowers pay the premiums on indemnity policies which protect the lender in the event of default. If the property is sold for the less than the loan, then the lender can make a claim on the insurance.

The Halifax strategy change comes as the Government raises concerns about lending practices. Ministers have issued warnings to banks and building societies over the growth of 100 per cent mortgages, amid fears of a return to irresponsible lending practices of the Eighties.

Competitors in the mortgage market were taken aback by Halifax's sudden decision. Bradford & Bingley and Abbey National said they were considering their own position on mortgage indemnity premiums. John Harper, director of lending policy at Bradford & Bingley, said: "We are not yet in a position to make a statement about our policy, but it is under review."

Mortgage brokers claimed that other lenders will have to fall in line with Halifax, as its dominance in the mortgage market effectively means it sets prices. Halifax lends a total of £10 billion a year to about 200,000 borrowers.

Alistair Conway, managing director of Clark Conway, a mortgage broker, who has been critical of the sums charged in indemnities, said: "I am staggered. Others will have to follow."

Ian Darby, of John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said: "This is a very aggressive position for Halifax to take, which has to be welcomed."

Mortgage indemnity insurance attracted strong criticism a few years ago because, though paid by the borrower, it actually insures the lender against the costs of repossession. Borrowers who default on a loan are still pursued for costs through the courts.

Dropping the fee will save £363 for a borrower with a £60,000 loan and a 15 per cent deposit. A borrower with a £100,000 loan and a 15 per cent deposit will save £603 — equivalent to about 0.5 per cent off interest rates for a year. Jim Gilchrist, executive director of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "The move has to be welcomed. We hope others will follow suit."

Mortgage indemnity insurance premiums soared at the beginning of Nineties because of the high level of repossessions. Insurers such as Eagle Star suffered huge losses, which they could only recoup by increasing prices.

The price of the insurance is further inflated because up to half the premium is taken by the building society in the form of commission.

Despite the fact that arrears figures have fallen substantially in the past year, mortgage indemnity premiums remain high. Many choose to have the premium added to their loan, which further increases borrowing costs.

Halifax said it could afford to scrap the fee because it insures the borrowers itself through its own captive insurance company. It claimed that it had no plans to recoup the costs by raising other charges.

A recent survey from Clark Conway showed big differences in the premiums charged by different lenders. The highest charge was levied by the Abbey National. Anyone taking out a £50,000 loan with this bank with a 5 per cent deposit will pay a mortgage indemnity premium of more than £1,000.

The fee on an equivalent loan from Leeds & Holbeck is £943, while the fee charged by Woolwich is £910. C&G, now part of Lloyds TSB, does not charge for indemnity. It lends mostly to individuals who pay a large deposit, making the insurance unnecessary.

Commentary.....31



Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, surprised competitors

PDFM and Gartmore lose £2bn of custom

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

GARTMORE and PDFM, two of the UK's biggest pension fund managers, have been hit by a slew of client defections after successive years of poor performance.

The two companies have lost mandates with a combined value of at least £2 billion since the autumn, as clients have lost their patience with the managers' bearish views on the stock market.

Both fund managers, which together control more than £90 billion in pension money, have taken large positions in cash at the expense of equities, in the belief that the market is heading for a crash. However, stock markets have continued to rise.

This week, Gartmore and PDFM part company with National Australia Group, the financial services group that owns Yorkshire and Clydesdale Banks, where the two companies controlled an equity fund valued at £800 million.

PDFM also lost a £1 billion contract at Railpen, the rail workers' pension fund, days after UBS, its parent, and Swiss Bank Corporation announced their merger. Gartmore has lost a number of smaller clients including Greenalls, the pub group, and Emap, the publisher.

The two companies are also under review at a number of local authorities. PDFM is expected to lose its share of a £450 million contract at Swansea City Council. Gartmore is under review at four London councils: Ealing, Richmond, Bromley and Tower Hamlets.

Although not formally under review at Surrey County Council, the authority has been unhappy with both companies' performance over the past two years. A third manager, Mercury Asset Management, has been asked to re-tender for its third-share of the £750 million portfolio.

Mike Taylor, financial controller at Surrey County Council, said it was difficult to see "who would have been happy" with Gartmore and PDFM in recent years. "We picked three managers, but none of them are meeting the benchmark at the moment. That's a real point for concern," he said.

PDFM and Gartmore say they have both lost business to passive fund managers. Legal & General, one of the biggest index-tracker managers, has picked up several mandates in recent months. They also point out that local authorities are obliged to review their portfolio every three years.

Their loss has proved a gain for Mercury, Fidelity, Schroder and AMP Asset Management. The four companies have picked up mandates with a combined worth of more than £1 billion since October, according to an analysis by *Pensions Week*, the magazine.

Benefits consultants say the next six months could be "a nail-biting period" for PDFM and Gartmore. "If the performance figures are poor for the first quarter, then the trickle may turn into a flood," said one actuarial consultant.

Chris Hitchen, principal of Aon Consulting, said: "Most of PDFM's processes are sound. It has taken too much risk on asset allocation, but it is not a good time to change this position. However, some clients are beginning to get itchy feet."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5608.4	(+10.6)
Yield	2.89%	
FTSE All share	2599.85	(+6.26)
Nikkei	17003.30	(+120.68)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8103.80	(-25.91)*
S&P Composite	1004.58	(-2.32)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 5/16%*	(5 3/8%)
Long Bond	103 14/32*	(103 3/32)
Yield	5.88%*	(5.87%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/16%	(7 1/16%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	122 28/32	(122 27/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6550*	(1.6565)
London:		
$	1.6553	(1.6528)
DM	2.9609	(2.9885)
FFr	9.9189	(10.0130)
SFr	2.3885	(2.4097)
Yen	204.06	(205.03)
£ Index	104.4	(105.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7890*	(1.8015)
FFr	5.9930*	(6.0370)
SFr	1.4433*	(1.4513)
Yen	123.60*	(123.75)
$ Index	107.3	(108.0)

Tokyo close Yen 123.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr) $15.50 ($15.30)

GOLD

London close..... $296.85 ($298.50)

* denotes midday trading price

ICI blow

ICI suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £603 million to £385 million mainly because of a £190 million knock from the strength of sterling. The shares rose, however, after ICI spoke of sales growth and rising margins. **Page 30**

Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola Amatil, the Australian soft drink bottler, is to spin off its European assets in preparation for a possible £1 billion-plus listing on the London Stock Exchange. **Page 31**

MPC leaves rates unchanged after mixed statistics

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) yesterday opted to leave base rates unchanged at 7.25 per cent, as expected, against a background of ambiguous economic data.

The Confederation of British Industry's distributive trades survey reported the highest proportion of firms saying that sales were above average for the time of year since autumn 1996. However, growth of orders placed with suppliers rose at their slowest rate since August.

Overall, the City argued that the survey painted a picture of relative strength in the high street. But the MPC's decision was welcomed by the CBI, the British Chambers of Commerce and many economists who believe that the economy is already slowing.

However, a minority criticised the decision. Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse Group, said: "Virtually everything tells you that the economy is growing very fast, except manufacturing, which is 20 per cent of the economy. This decision is inexcusable."

Other figures released yesterday included a 6 per cent rise in housing starts in the three months to December and a 2 per cent rise in new construction orders. January new car registrations were up 12 per cent on last time.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 33

Silver price at highest since 1988

By Alasdair Murray

SILVER prices reached their highest level since 1988 yesterday as dealers rushed into the market after the revelation that Warren Buffett, the billionaire investor, had bought 20 per cent of the world's total supply.

The metal jumped from $7.05 an ounce to a high of $7.90 before slipping to close at $7.40. Mr Buffett revealed that he had spent $900 million (£550 million) on the metal during the past six months. The London Bullion Market Association said last night that it had extended the period for physical delivery of silver from five to 15 days because of "unusually large quantities entering London". There are reports of traders shipping silver from New York to London where it can be held "off market".

Reuters scandal centres on former Bloomberg man

From Oliver August in New York

A FORMER Bloomberg employee has been named as the central figure in the Reuters scandal over data stolen from the rival information service.

The allegations centre on David Schwartz, who runs a computer consultancy called Cyberspace Research Associates. It works for Reuters Analytics, the US Reuters arm that competes with Bloomberg in providing information to financial markets traders.

Yesterday Cyberspace Research's telephone line and Internet site were disconnected and its Manhattan offices empty.

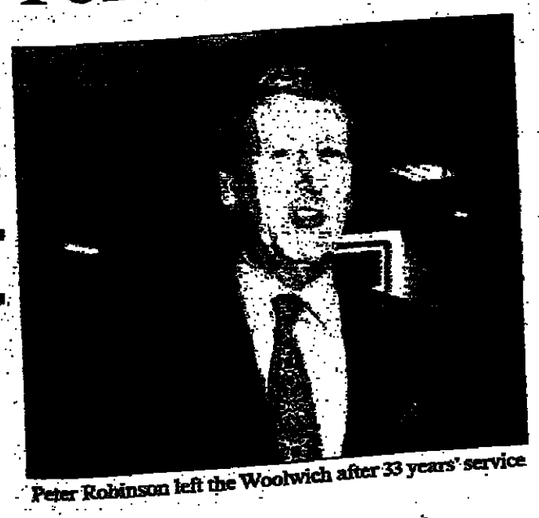
Mr Schwartz is believed to have accessed the Bloomberg network via a terminal at Cyberspace Research. Reuters and Bloomberg do not permit direct access to each other's terminals.

He did not hack into the Bloomberg system but is said to have used codes to gain access to the heart of the system. Using knowledge from his work at Bloomberg, he downloaded large chunks of central programming information, it is claimed, that were passed on to Reuters.

Most of the stolen data is said to have involved complex bond pricing models that compile and compute vast amounts of historical data from different sources. The data is public knowledge but the models are comparable in their complexity to the avionics in a modern jet plane.

Former Woolwich chief heads Foresters

By Richard Miles



Peter Robinson left the Woolwich after 33 years' service

PETER ROBINSON, who left the Woolwich Building Society amid allegations of misuse of its facilities, has resurfaced as chief executive of Foresters UK, the insurer.

Mr Robinson took up his new job on Monday and, pending approval from the Department of Trade and Industry, will also become managing director of Forester Life and the insurer's holding company.

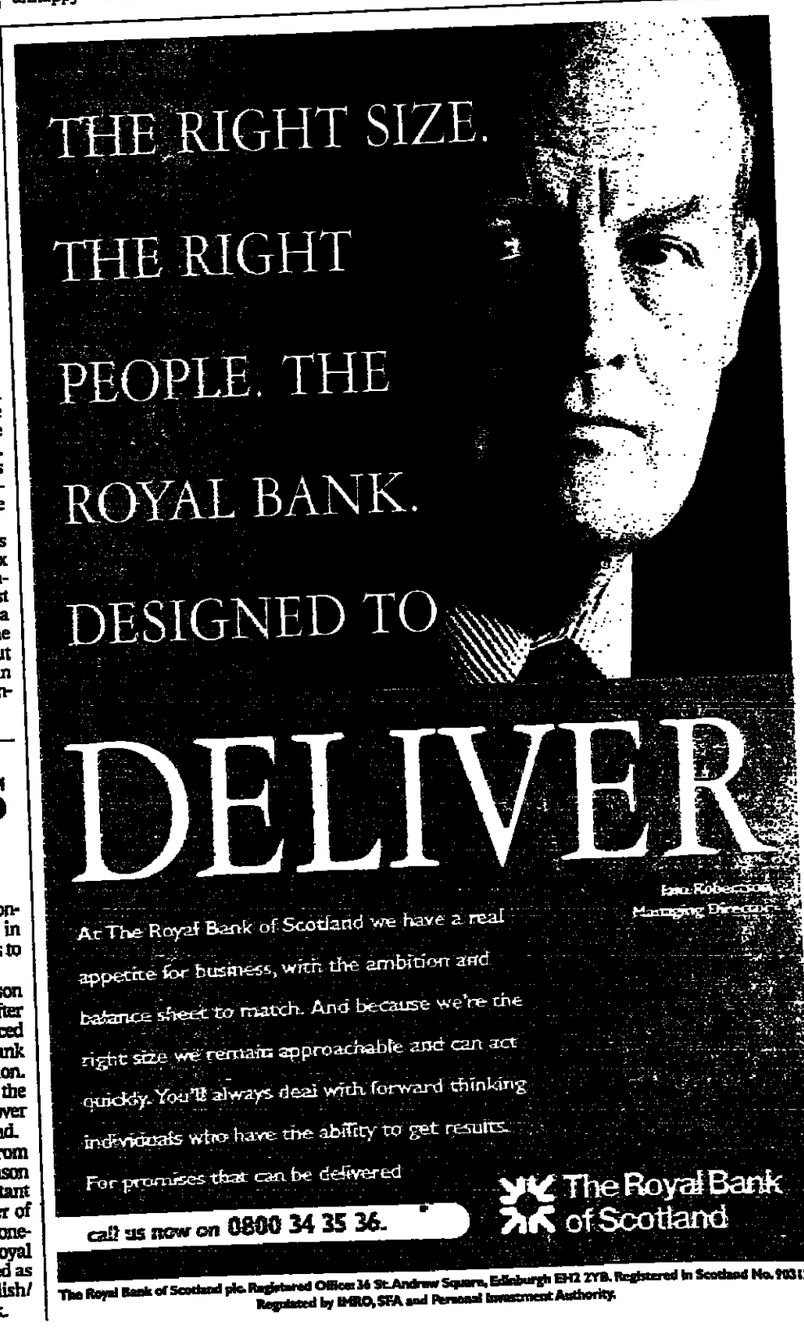
A note sent to members of the Independent Order of Foresters, the fraternal society that owns the insurer, charts Mr Robinson's achievements during a 30-year career in financial services, but fails to mention the conditions under which he left the Woolwich in April 1996.

Mr Robinson, who did not return calls yesterday, has always strenuously denied allegations that he misused Woolwich company cars and facilities during his three months in the £300,000-a-year post as chief executive. He served a total of 33 years at the former society.

Shortly after his resignation, Mr Robinson signed a confidential deal with his former employer which is believed to have given him a pension worth £133,000 per year. The Woolwich has never confirmed these figures, although its annual report contains a figure of £129,000 in respect of pension payments to Mr Robinson.

The ousting of Mr Robinson came just three months after the Woolwich announced plans to convert to a bank through a £3 billion flotation. His sudden departure left the society vulnerable to takeover while a successor was found.

Since his resignation from the Woolwich, Mr Robinson worked briefly as a consultant to Peter Wood, the founder of Direct Line, the telephone-based insurer owned by Royal Bank of Scotland, and acted as chief executive of the Polish/American Mortgage Bank.



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Norwich Union sued over Lloyd's guarantees

BY ADAM JONES

NORWICH UNION is being sued in the High Court for helping people to underwrite at Lloyd's of London.

A writ has been issued by 66 policyholders who suffered heavy losses as Lloyd's names and now face losing their homes.

They are among about 2,500 people who obtained guarantees from Norwich Union that allowed them to underwrite at Lloyd's. The guarantees were sold by Norwich Union before Lloyd's nearly collapsed from multibillion pound losses.

The guarantees were generally sold through intermediaries. They were used as proof of a name's ability to pay any debts, enabling Lloyd's to claim money from Norwich Union. Norwich Union is now seeking reimbursement from the names whose guarantees were called in.

The litigating names claim that the agreements are void. They claim that Michael Falcon, the then Norwich Union chairman, and Allan Bridgewater, the retired chief executive, knew that Lloyd's was massively exposed to asbestosis claims and reinsurance spirals. They claim that the two executives knew through their directorships of Norwich Winterthur Reinsurance and Stronghold Insurance, two Norwich Union subsidiaries, that the Lloyd's global exposure exceeded its known capacity, and that Lloyd's had to continue recruiting new members or face collapse.

The names, suing under the banner of the Norwich Union Action Group, are also seeking damages.

A Norwich Union spokesman said the company was confident the legal claims would not succeed: "Norwich Union did not advise names on the merit of underwriting at Lloyd's. Names retained their own professional advisers for that purpose."

Norwich Union stopped issuing the property-backed policies in 1991, having been selling them since 1989. Its total exposure to Lloyd's guarantees was about £300 million.

Chancellor calls for IMF code on crises

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN yesterday called on the International Monetary Fund to introduce a fiscal transparency code to help to prevent the sudden outbreak of another Asian-style financial crisis.

Reform of the IMF, including the allocation of new funds, is set to head the agenda at the G7 finance ministers meeting in London later this month.

"Firms and markets need clear signals from governments about policy if they are to make the right decisions and feel confident about the future," Mr Brown said.

The Chancellor, who was speaking at a meeting of European and Asian finance deputies in London (Asem), also gave a strong warning against retreating into protectionism in an attempt to resolve the problems.

The Asem meeting concluded with a call for the IMF to improve its surveillance techniques and for the establishment of a regional surveillance organisation for Asia. However, Sir Nigel Wicks, deputy permanent secretary to the Treasury who chaired the meeting, said he believed the impact of the crisis would be "manageable" for the world economy and "relatively modest" in Europe.

Stock markets in Asia enjoyed a better day with markets in Malaysia and Thailand registering strong gains.

ICI shares surge in face of profit slump

BY CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in ICI surged nearly 5 per cent yesterday in spite of disappointing annual profits as the company painted a glowing picture of growth in sales and margins after the reshaping of the business into a speciality chemicals group.

ICI's pre-tax profit for the year before exceptional items fell from £603 million to £385 million, mainly because of a £190 million hit from the strength of sterling. But Alan Spall, finance director, pointed to a sharp rise in trading profit in the fourth quarter, up 46 per cent to £189 million.

ICI's new businesses, including National Starch and Quest, showed gains in the final quarter, which Mr Spall said was evidence of their intrinsic quality. Industrial chemicals suffered a loss of £20 million, compared with a profit of £80 million last year, because of falls in volumes, currency movements and higher input costs.

Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, adopted an upbeat note on the Asian crisis, pointing out that the shift in emphasis to speciality chemicals had cut ICI's exposure to Asia from 20 per cent of sales to 12 per cent. "Our backcloth is a growing world economy. Within that backcloth Asia is slower. But we still expect Asia to grow at above average world growth rates."

ICI is maintaining its annual dividend at 32p in spite of a fall in the earnings before exceptionals from 48.6p to 33p.

The company has exceeded its target of £3 billion of disposals, with the titanium dioxide and explosives business to be completed soon. Mr Spall said that the businesses sold and those earmarked for disposal were expected to generate £3.5 billion in proceeds but had contributed only £18 million to group earnings last year. He said the company had written down certain industrial chemical assets by £100 million before disposal.

ICI said it was well on the way to achieving millennium compatibility in its computer systems and is insisting that its European suppliers, which amount to 1,000 separate businesses, must have systems that comply with European Monetary Union. Mr Spall said: "Our strategy is to insist on EMU pricing for all our suppliers on day one."

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DENZIL McNEELANCE



Alan Spall, left, and Charles Miller Smith yesterday

Raines net £66m from sale to Dairy Crest

BY FRASER NELSON

NIGEL RAINE, a dairy farmer whose grandfather founded Raine Dairy Foods, has netted £66.2 million for his family by selling the business to a joint venture run by Dairy Crest and Yoplait.

The deal — Dairy Crest's first major acquisition since it was spun off from the Milk Marque — will provide the company with exposure to the store own-brand market for the first time.

Mr Raine, his 80-year-old mother, his sister and brother-in-law are all to step down from the board, ending 84 years of family control.

Dairy Crest and Yoplait are paying £33.1 million each, but will both enjoy a £17.1 million refund after the joint venture takes on debt.

Mr Raine and his four fellow directors were paid £1.5 million between them last year, which left group operating profits of £5.5 million (£893,000 loss) on flat turnover of £114 million.

Raines has four manufacturing sites in the South and South West of England and employs 1,060 people. Raines supplies dairy products such as yogurt, cottage and soft cheeses to major retailers.

The joint venture was formed seven years ago so Yoplait, Europe's second-largest dairy company, could use Dairy Crest's resources to produce and market its products in the UK. Yoplait claims market leadership in the growing *fromage frais* sector with the Petits Filous and Wildlife brands.

Shares in Dairy Crest, which joined the market at 155p in August 1996, advanced 10p to a high of 298½p yesterday.

CSL awarded £130m contract

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE Lord Chancellor's Department has signed a £130 million deal with CSL, the outsourcing arm of Deloitte & Touche, which will take over all of its accounting and information technology systems.

The nine-year contract, agreed under the Private Finance Initiative, is expected to be the first of many as government departments adopt new resource accounting and allocation systems. The Employment Service, part of the Department for Education and Employment, is expected to put its systems out to tender in the next few weeks.

Departments must change to the new accounting systems at the start of April and have to change their entire resource allocation systems by 2000.

Under the deal with the Lord Chancellor's Department, CSL will take on the risk of implementing this system and will ensure that the department's computers can deal with the millennium bug. CSL beat US-owned EDS for the contract. EDS is thought to have won more than half the £3 billion of information technology outsourcing work agreed by the Government.

Biotech's price hurt by delay

BY ADAM JONES

SHARES in British Biotech, the drug developer, fell heavily yesterday after news that a regulatory decision on its acute pancreatitis treatment will be delayed.

A verdict on its Zacutex drug is unlikely before late 1999 at the earliest. A decision had been anticipated this spring. British Biotech shares fell 38½p to 94½p. The shares traded as high as 326p in 1996.

Acute pancreatitis can cause organ failure or death and affects 350,000 in Europe and the US each year. There is no approved drug to fight it in the UK or in the US.

The company submitted phase three trial results for Zacutex to the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (Emea) for approval in February, 1997. However, the Emea now wants to wait for the results of an expanded international trial. Recruitment for the trial is expected to finish by the end of 1998.

US regulators are not likely to decide on Zacutex until late 1999 or early 2000.

Estimates of the drug's future value differ. A British Biotech spokesman said yesterday that an approximate estimate was $200 million (£120 million) in sales a year.

Barclays settles pay dispute

BY RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS has reached a settlement with unions in its long-running dispute over performance-related pay.

The bank has agreed to an increase in pay rates for 50,000 employees of between 3.25 per cent and 3.75 per cent, effective from April 1.

Unifi, the staff federation of 44,000 Barclays workers, said that this will result in a 5.2 per cent rise in average take-home pay, well above the going rate for national pay settlements.

Iain MacLean, Unifi's assistant general secretary, praised the bank's decision to resume negotiations after three one-day strikes in the run-up to Christmas. He estimated that the settlement would cost Barclays about £50 million a year.

Unifi and the Banking, Finance and Insurance Union had claimed that Barclays's earlier offer would have resulted in a pay and pensions freeze for 25,000 staff, even if they met new performance targets. That threat had now been withdrawn, they said.

Barclays said: "Barclays is keen to pay salaries which are competitive with the outside market and this agreement will enable us to ensure that this remains the case."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Pakistani find lifts Hardy Oil shares

SHARES in Hardy Oil & Gas, the exploration group, soared yesterday as the company announced a huge gas discovery in Pakistan. Hardy said that a well operated by OMV, its Austrian joint venture partner, had made a commercial gas discovery in the South West Miano licence with estimated total reserves of one trillion to two trillion cubic feet. A spokesman for Hardy described the onshore gasfield as "as high as Big Ben and stretching from London to Exeter".

The discovery added £50 million to the market value of Hardy as its share price rose 36p to 284p. John Walmesley, chief executive of Hardy, said: "What is particularly encouraging about the results of the Sawan-1 well is that they open up the prospect of similar accumulations of gas being found in other parts of the licensed area." Hardy has 30 per cent of the block but that will reduce to 23.7 per cent as the Government of Pakistan has the right to increase its holding to 25 per cent.

Astra harassment fund

ASTRA, the Swedish pharmaceutical company, is setting up a $9.85 million (£6 million) fund to cover claims for compensation for sexual harassment from staff at its American subsidiary. Astra has launched a claim for $15 million from Lars Bildman, former president and chief executive officer, who was dismissed in 1996 without compensation. Included is a sum for expenses incurred because of what it claims was Mr Bildman's inappropriate behaviour. At the time he denied allegations of sexual harassment.

DuPont closes plant

DUPONT, the US chemicals company, is closing one of its plants in Londonderry with the loss of more than 200 jobs. The Neoprene division at Maydown was mothballed in the summer because of declining markets and worldwide overcapacity. Yesterday DuPont said efforts would be made to reduce the number of compulsory redundancies, with Neoprene workers being selected to fill vacancies at its neighbouring Lycra plant.

PacifiCorp bid approval

PACIFICORP, the US electrical services group, has received US regulatory approval of its £6.5 billion bid for The Energy Group. The US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission made its consent conditional on Energy selling assets from its Citizens Power subsidiary and, unless PacifiCorp's bid falls, these will be sold to Lehman Brothers Holdings. The assets centred on Citizens' licensed power-trading activities had to go because PacifiCorp trades in the same area.

Sears sells Cable & Co

SEARS, the struggling retailer, has confirmed that it is selling its Cable & Co shoe chain to Nine West of the US. Nine West, which trades under the brand names Shoe Studio, Pied à Terre and Pappagallo, is paying £6 million for the chain and Sears will sell the freeholds for about £5 million. The deal is the final part of the break-up of British Shoe Corporation, the Sears operation which once sold one in four shoes in the UK, a move that has cost Sears £150 million.

Menzies links to SAS

JOHN MENZIES, the delivery company that is selling all its high street stores, has secured a £4.5 million contract to handle Heathrow cargo for SAS, the Scandinavian airline. The deal, part of its switch to an all-round logistics group, will give access to the Star Alliance partnership, which includes Lufthansa, Air Canada, United Airlines, Thai and Varig. Menzies is already negotiating with Lufthansa about handling the airline's cargo terminal at Heathrow.

Crest Nicholson leaps

CREST NICHOLSON, the housebuilder, more than doubled pre-tax profits to £20.5 million from £10 million in the year to October 31. Turnover increased 6 per cent from £332 million to £353 million. Earnings rose to 11.75p a share from 4.74p. The total dividend is lifted to 3.75p from 2.5p, with a 2.5p final due on March 9. The company said it expected to see further price improvements, particularly in the South, although not at the same rate as 1997. Crest shares rose 2½p to 108½p.

Gleeson in airport deal

INVERNESS AIRPORT is to be rebuilt in a £9 million programme led by MJ Gleeson, the construction company. The project, helped by £3 million from the EU, will treble the airport's size where passenger figures have doubled to 400,000 in ten years. The airport has five daily flights to London and two to Zurich and Amsterdam. British Airways retreated from there last year in the face of competition by Air UK and easyJet. MJ Gleeson shares remained at £10.20.

Amey wins road work

AMEY, the construction group, has won a £34 million contract by the Highways Agency for the management of all trunk roads and motorways in Devon and Cornwall. The work consists of emergency and routine winter road maintenance, along with lamps, signs, fencing and landscape. Amey has road contracts for four other areas. The contract lasts for three years from April 1 and is extendable for one year. Shares in Amey rose by 13½p, to 458½p.

Telecoms pact goes live

A WORLD Trade Organisation (WTO) pact to open up basic telecommunication and satellite services to competition among private and state-run companies around the globe came into effect yesterday. The pact, finalised last February, initially commits only 58 countries to open up their domestic telecoms market. Officials say that so many different services are involved that it is likely to be well into the 21st century before the entire global industry is liberalised.

Internet gets its Trademark thanks to London company

BY CHRIS AYRES

THE trademark symbol is coming to the Internet, thanks to a bizarre alliance between a British company and the former Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan.

NetNames, a tiny London business, has struck a profit-sharing deal with the Government of Turkmenistan to sell companies the right to end their Internet addresses with the suffix ".TM".

Although the ".TM" suffix carries no legal weight, since Monday, contracts for it have been sold to more than 1,000 companies, including Warner Brothers and Esso, for $50 (£30) a year.

The scheme is possible because the US authorities have allocated all countries with domain names — rather like international postcodes — which tell computers in which parts of the world to find Internet sites. The British domain name is ".UK" — Turkmenistan is ".TM".

However, most large companies are loath to use national domain names and have instead paid huge premiums to register under the only two international names of ".COM" or ".ORG". Now that nearly all brands in all languages have been registered under ".COM" and ".ORG" a row has erupted over the need for more international names, and over who should be in charge of creating them. At present the US authorities have complete control. NetNames says that it can offer a short-term solution with the name ".TM".

"There is no such thing as an Internet trademark," says Ivan Pope, chief executive. "But everyone recognises the meaning of TM."

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.33	2.38
Austria Sch	21.45	20.19
Belgium Fr	64.37	59.41
Canada $	2.560	2.518
Cyprus Cpnd	0.817	0.848
Denmark Kr	11.88	10.09
Finland Mrk	8.53	8.78
France Fr	10.40	9.62
Germany Dm	3.15	2.89
Greece Dr	495	458
Hong Kong $	14.82	12.42
Iceland	191	171
Ireland Pu	1.33	1.14
Israel Shk	6.31	5.65
Italy Lire	3103	2868
Japan Yen	210.13	207.80
Malta	0.594	0.552
Netherlds Gld	3.531	3.258
New Zealand $	2.96	2.72
Norway Kr	12.88	12.01
Portugal Esc	315.53	285.50
S Africa Rd	8.83	7.87
Spain Pta	262.29	238.50
Sweden Kr	14.09	12.99
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.33
Turkey Lira	370965	351867
USA $	1.750	1.687

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

هكذا من الاصل

Halifax goes the Xtra mile

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

For many years, mortgage lenders have enjoyed the benefits of mortgage indemnity guarantee insurance. It is a product that would have made sellers of religious relics think they had missed a trick: the customer hands over the cash and receives nothing in return, while the lender hangs on to a proportion of the money and loses a major element of risk on its loan.

Nice work if you can get it, and the mortgage lenders found a very easy way of doing so — they made it compulsory. The vast majority of lenders declared themselves unprepared to lend more than 75 per cent on a property unless MIG was part of the deal.

It is not in the nature of Mike Blackburn, the gritty chief executive of the Halifax, to say nay to a gift horse, yet here he is, turning his back on this generous bonus. Cynical homebuyers will be asking themselves why he has only now decided to do away with the requirement for MIG when there has long been vociferous opposition to this exceedingly one-sided transaction. They might even be wondering how he intends to recoup the funds he is sacrificing; for sellers of financial services have a reputation for giving with one hand only what they know they can gather back with the other.

But canny Blackburn has a longer term strategy than just reaping a quick marketing benefit here before sneaking the money back along another route. The Halifax is now the country's fourth largest bank, not merely a building society, and he is aiming to capitalise on its user friendly credentials. Already he has made the decision to experiment with Sunday opening, on the revolutionary grounds that people tend to favour weekend househunting.

Rivals will have to follow him on Sundays just as they will on mortgage indemnity guarantee insurance. When the market leader moves, the others cannot afford to be too far behind. And on the insurance front Halifax, with its own in-house insurer, can at least afford to self-insure against the prospect of losses on repossessions. Smaller competitors will be disadvantaged, and will sorely miss the half of the premium that they have generally pocketed from selling the iniquitous MIG.

Investors' enthusiasm for Blackburn and his ideas has already seen the Halifax share price soar from the 776.5p it hit on the day of flotation last June to 934p last night. They believe the real money is to be made from selling a whole range of financial products to those who take out mortgages.

Sacrificing the oppressive MIG may be a small price for being seen as a good guy in a wicked world.

Redwood hits the CBI target

Count your blessings while they last. Many manufacturers will be as pleased as the financial markets were yesterday that Eddie George's sadistic Monetary Policy Committee has at least spared them one more turn of the interest rate screw for one more month.

Whatever happens four weeks hence, such happy sentiments seem unlikely to outlast Gordon Brown's Budget on March 17. Measures affecting business are likely to be long and complex. They will create entirely new taxes as well as making drastic changes in existing ones. For many, they also seem certain to impose extra costs.

John Redwood, now shadow to the President of the Board of Trade, issued some timely warnings yesterday. His runners for new taxes include levies on sand and gravel for building, on fertilisers for farmers, on offshore oil, on business motoring and on car parking at work. Mr Brown is shaping up to be one of the most self-righteous tax bullies of modern times.

Tax has to be paid. In principle, the more taxes on goods and services and the lower the tax rates, the better. But Mr Brown's aim is all too clearly to add to the total tax burden, not to spread it more thinly.

Appropriately, Mr Redwood has adopted the CBI's calculation that greedy Gordon has levied £25 billion in extra taxes from business in nine months. The Chancellor's £5 billion-a-year pension fund grab is already recognised as being cynical, damaging and counterproductive for the Government's proclaimed long-term strategy.

Business is going to need a much louder voice in Parliament as it gradually realises that Mr Brown was always a wolf in granny's clothing. Mr Redwood, though firing indiscriminately at times, seems to be the only top Tory with enough brainpower and waspishness to make an impact in Opposition with no Whitehall to do the work for him.

An important element in this process is making a rapprochement with Sir Colin Marshall and Adair Turner, the CBI's somewhat confused leaders. The CBI is unlikely to back the Tories outright, but they need each other in the fight to tame the zealot in Number 11.

Recognising the problem

Reconciling Government rhetoric about being supportive of business with the wish of some old-fashioned Labourites not to totally alienate the trades unions was inevitably going to put ministers in an uncomfortable crunch.

That pain is nearing as the debate over union recognition heads towards a White Paper in which the Government is going to have to take sides. The CBI would rather not have businesses forced to deal with unions but a statutory right to recognition was one of the sops Labour promised to those who had funded the party through the long years in the wilderness.

No doubt both wishing to win brownie points from Mr Blair, the CBI and the TUC tried putting their heads together to produce a workable compromise. Some hope. They both agree that recognition should depend on a majority vote but 50 per cent of what is the problem. The CBI reckons the requirement should be 50 per cent of the relevant workforce, the TUC says 50 per cent of those voting. Those CBI chaps who run major companies will know that, when it comes to asking shareholders what they think, they are normally happy to settle for a majority of the votes cast rather than those in issue.

If their fear is that a few activists may win the day in the workplace, the CBI industrialists may have to start campaigning on the factory floor.

Soul searching

THE final exit by Sears from shoe shops raises two questions. How could the board of a top public company manage to destroy a stable, profitable, monopoly business, along with its famous and respected brand names? Yet more puzzling, how could City investors, singly or together, have allowed the directors to do it so long without screaming abuse from the rooftops? Until fund managers provide answers, expect it to happen again.

Coca-Cola offshoot plans £1bn float of European assets

BY KATHY LIPARI

COCA-COLA Amatil (CCA), the Australian soft drink bottler, unveiled a significant restructuring plan that will see its European assets spun off into a new company in preparation for a possible £1 billion flotation in London.

In a dramatic overhaul of its operations and management, Amatil will cut free its European division, which reported disappointing sales in the second half of 1997, to create Coca-Cola Beverages (CCB).

The move will allow Amatil to concentrate on the Asia Pacific region.

Coca-Cola Beverages, with assets of A$2.9 billion (£1.2 billion), will be based in Vienna and include existing bottling operations in 12 European countries.

European institutions will be given an opportunity to invest in the group through a book building process that will be established for current Amatil shareholders to sell out of the company should they so wish.

The exact size of the listing and the value of the shares to be offered are yet to be determined, but the flotation is expected to take place around June.

The European group recorded flat sales of $A1.77 billion in 1997 and a trading profit of A$74.7 million, compared with A$73.3 million.

Under the restructuring, Amatil will also buy the northern and central Italian businesses owned by The Coca-Cola Company, its Atlanta-based parent, for $979 million (£591 million) in cash and shares and fold the operations into Coca-Cola Beverages.

Amatil, the largest Coca-Cola group outside America, which reported a 73 per cent rise in net profits to $A242.2 million for 1997, will also purchase the parent company's South Korean operations for about $588.5million, including assumed debts.

The shareholders of Amatil will receive one Beverages share for every Amatil share they hold.

Analysts have suggested two of Amatil's major shareholders, Robert Kuok, the Asian billionaire, and San Miguel Corporation of the Philippines, will take the opportunity to offload their shares in the group after becoming cash strapped as a result of the Asian economic crisis. Mr Kuok owns 6 per cent of Amatil, while San Miguel holds 25 per cent stake.

The Coca-Cola Company is likely to emerge with a 50 per cent shareholding in Coca-Cola Beverageswhen it lists on the stock market and is also likely to increase its holding in Amatil from 33 to about 40 per cent.

Monsoon ready for £352m market debut

BY FRASER NELSON

MONSOON, the women's wear retailer whose flotation was pulled 18 months ago, is ready to join the market at the second attempt next week with a £352 million valuation.

The price tag, — at the top end of City expectations — will provide a £337 million fortune for Peter Simon, the advertising dropout who founded the company in 1973. This includes £84.7 million cash, which he raised from selling a quarter of his original 96 per cent holding.

Monsoon has completed a roadshow of about 90 institutitions, and has succeeded in raising £88.3 million which will be shared between Mr Simon and other management. The company itself has not raised any money. It has dismantled Sycamore Trust, the secretive Malta fund that owned a 67 per cent stake at Monsoon's 1996 flotation attempt. Crèdit Suisse has bought out all the trust's previous owners on behalf of Mr Simon for an undisclosed sum — although the identity of the original beneficiaries remains a mystery.

Mr Simon said: "Our story was very well received by the City and I am delighted with the response."

The placing will also mean a bonanza for John Spooner, managing director, and Andrew May, finance director. They will each enjoy a £3.93 million holding and £1.32 million cash. Other managers share £1 million cash.

Analysts were lukewarm about the price tag, but said the outcome was likely to encourage New Look, the women's wear chain, to speed its £250 million flotation. Tempus, page 32

Profits develop at Photo-Me

BY KATHY LIPARI



David: high expenditure

THREE years of heavy spending on research and development were finally starting to pay off, Photo-Me International said yesterday as it reported a 23 per cent rise in interim profits.

The photo-booth manufacturer said pre-tax profits rose 23.2 per cent to £11.2 million in the six months to October 31. The company has forecast full-year profits of at least £14.5 million, up from £10.3 million.

Dan David, the executive chairman, said: "These better results have been achieved despite the fact that sterling has continued to strengthen.

"Following several years of high expenditure in research and development, the group is now seeing the results of that investment." Expenditure on new photo-booth equipment increased to £11.7 million from £7.5 million.

Turnover improved by 1.6 per cent to £94.9 million. More than 70 per cent of the company's revenue is generated overseas. The interim dividend is 2p (1.5p), payable from earnings of 9.6p a share (7.5p). The shares fell 13p to 178½p yesterday, bringing to an end a strong run that has seen the price bounce from 108½p in early December.

NTL deal on Comcast cable interests

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE consolidation of the UK cable industry took a significant step forward yesterday when NTL, the cable and broadcast services group, agreed to buy the cable interests of Comcast UK in a share deal worth $600 million (£362 million).

The deal will make NTL the third-largest cable company in the UK, behind Cable & Wireless Communications and Telewest Communications, with more than 500,000 customers.

The deal also raises the intriguing prospect that NTL will be brought into a much closer working relationship with Telewest, which has large stakes in two of the four Comcast cable operations.

For months, NTL and Telewest have been in talks without reaching any conclusion.

Comcast and Telewest each have a 50 per cent stake in Cable London and a 27.45 per cent stake in Birmingham Cable, one of Britain's most attractive cable franchises. General Cable has the remaining Birmingham stake.

It is believed that in the event of Comcast selling its stakes in Cable London and Birmingham, Telewest has the right to match the offer price.

Unless a global deal can quickly be arranged between NTL and Telewest, it seems likely that Telewest will seize the opportunity of yesterday's agreement to own all of Cable London and take a controlling stake in Birmingham Cable.

If so, the Comcast UK acquisition will look much less attractive to NTL because it will consist of only two wholly-owned cable operations — Cambridge and Teeside.

Telewest yesterday said that it was examining its options.

Under the deal, Comcast shareholders will receive 0.3745 NTL shares per Comcast share. The $600 million value is based on NTL shares being $11.98.

Rolfe & Nolan agrees US bid

BY CHRIS AYRES

ROLFE & NOLAN, the producer of financial risk-management software, has received a £71.2 million agreed takeover bid from SunGard Data Systems, its larger American rival.

SunGard is listed on the New York stock exchange with a market value of about £2 billion. The share-swap offer is worth 525p per R&N share — a 46 per cent premium on R&N's share price on Wednesday. The shares yesterday rose by 137½p, to 497½p.

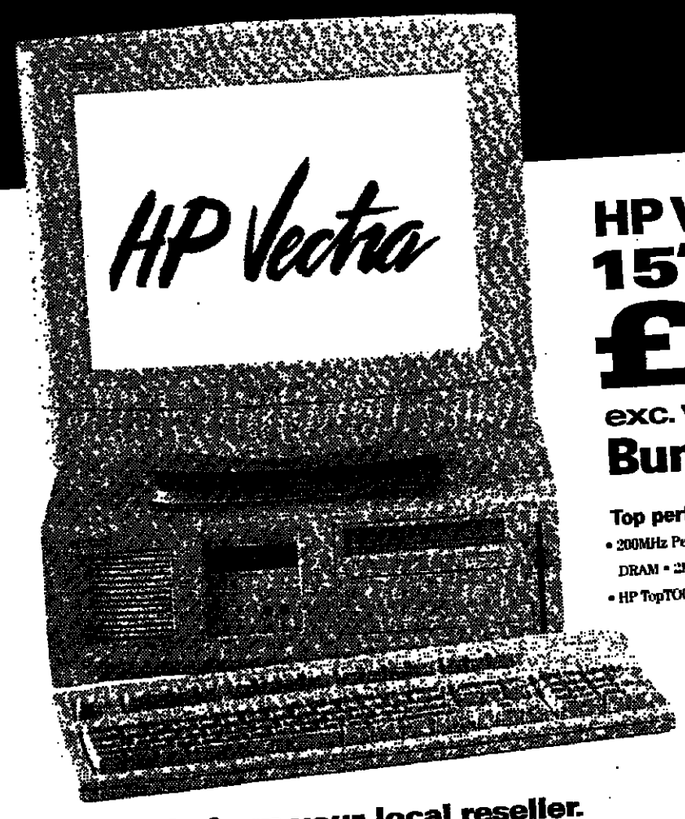
R&N has invested more than £9 million into its new Lighthouse treasury derivatives software, which has already been licensed to a big American investment bank. R&N is the market leader in futures and options software.

Tim Hearley, R&N chairman, said: "Lighthouse is now a major product which is going to be potentially very successful, but it's going to take a significant amount of time, perhaps a year, to complete sales."

Acquiring R&N confirms SunGard's ambitions to be a serious rival to financial software providers such as Reuters, Misys and SAP. Last year it bought another treasury software provider, Infinity, for $350 million (£212 million).

Steve Rapkin, an R&N director, holds shares worth more than £3 million. So does Malcolm Rolfe, an R&N founder and its honorary president.

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE advance dented as Merrill spoils rates party

MERRILL LYNCH cut short the celebrations that greeted the Bank of England's decision to peg interest rates at 7.25 per cent.

The US securities house was reputed to have begun selling the financial future while the party was at its height and cut short what was shaping up to be another record-breaking run by the market.

At its best the FTSE 100 index struck a new intra-day high of 5,675.1 before going into reverse late on as Merrill's actions took effect. At one stage, the index was down 18.0 but rallied to finish 10.6 up at 5,606.4.

The move by the index in London reflected a similar performance by the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street which saw an early 50-point lead wiped out.

More than one billion shares were traded in London with heavy turnover reported in **BTR**, ½p lighter at 164p (17.4 million shares), **Diageo**, down 15½p at 550½p (25.4 million), and **BT**, 18p off at 580p (16.6 million).

Brokers shrugged off the latest profits setback at **ICI** and marked the shares 39p higher at 978p after a positive meeting with the company. ICI has indicated that the worst of the sterling crisis, which made a £190 million dent in profits last year, may be under control.

Renewed optimism that the pound will begin to lose ground against its main rivals after the decision to peg interest rates breathed fresh life into the overseas earners. **GKN** rose 78p to £13.26, **British Aerospace** 62p to £16.95, **BAT Industries** 16½p to 581½p, **British Steel** 3½p to 137½p, and **Unilever** 13p to 511p.

Revived talk of a bid from AT&T lifted **Vodafone** 6½p to 510½p on turnover of almost 6.5 million shares. There was also support for **Cable & Wireless**, 23½p to 614½p, **General Cable**, 18½p to 99½p, and **Colt Telecom**, 41p to £10.37.

Reuters continued to claw its way back with a rise of 14p at 574p, no doubt helped by the decision of Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, to move from "neutral" to "outperform".

Pearson jumped 20p to 827p supported by two "buy" recommendations produced simultaneously by Greig Middleton and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. A "buy" recommendation from DKB also breathed fresh life into **Asda** which closed 6p higher at a peak of 206p.



John Matthews, left, and John Callcutt saw Crest rise 1½p to 108p after reporting a doubling in pre-tax profit

Delays in bringing in developing its anti-pancreatitis treatment, Zacutex, saw **British Biotech** slump to its lowest level for more than two years with a fall of 41p at 92p. European regulators are demanding more information.

The setback highlights the dangers of investing in high-risk biotech stocks. **Scotia Holdings** fell 12½p to 330p. Hopes of developing one of its treatments, Tarabetic, was recently dealt a withering blow.

Powerscreen continued its ragged retreat with a fall of 26½p at 201p as dealers continued to ponder the recent £47 million write-off relating to "financial irregularities". The shares changed hands at 607p last month.

A doubling of pre-tax profits last year at **Crest Nicholson** was no mean achievement and the group was rewarded with a rise of 1½p at 108p. But the housbuilder, where John Matthews is chairman and John Callcutt chief executive, warns investors that house prices have slowed and will not match last year's rises.

Scholl, the footwear and personal healthcare group, rose 9p to 266½p after analysts upgraded their profit forecasts following a confident trading statement this week. They are now looking for pre-tax profits of around £23 million (£20.6 million) for 1997, due to be reported next month.

Misys extended its record-breaking run with a rise of 10p at £25.02½ after briefly touching £25.70. At these levels the company is capitalised at £2.8 billion and must be considered as a possible constituent of the FTSE 100 index when the steering committee meets next month.

Elsewhere in the information and technology sector, **Rolfe & Nolan** surged 137½p to 497½p after learning of the agreed £71.2 million bid from SunGard Data Systems, the US data systems specialist. The terms are worth 525p a share.

Micro Focus leapt 87½p to £29.95, **Sage Group** 37½p to £11.57½, **CMG** 32½p to £19.07½, **Druid Group** 20p to 780p, **Eidos** 57½p to 982½p, **JBA Holdings** 35p to £12, **Kewill Systems** 29p to 704p, **London Bridge Systems** 34½p to 563p and **Royalblue** 27½p to 365p.

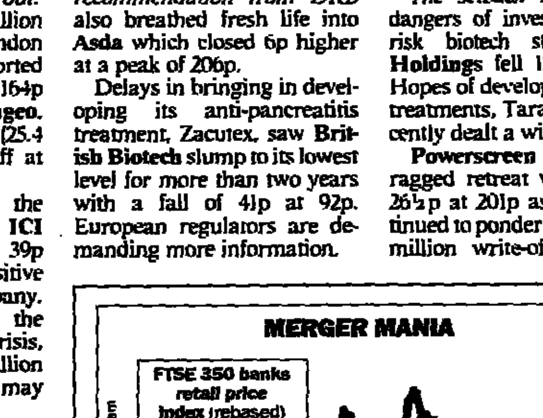
Reports of a big gas find in Pakistan boosted **Hardy Oil & Gas** 37p to 285p.

Wyndeham Press rose 4p to 239½p as brokers reflected on this week's £4.8 million acquisition of Aquaprint.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The bond market breathed a sigh of relief at the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee to peg interest rates.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt put on £1/16 at £122 29/32, while in the cash market Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 was £1/8 better at £108 15/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were mixed at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average had shed 25.91 points, to 8,103.80, troubled by a weaker dollar, concerns over Iraq, and today's key employment data.



ANOTHER wave of merger mania swept the financial sector amid claims that several big deals were about to be unveiled. But City speculators came away disappointed as prices closed off their best.

The story yesterday that Barclays, down 18p at £19.30, was getting together with NatWest Bank, 17p lower at £11.28, was again revived. As a result, the market speculators tipped Lloyds TSB, 9p lighter at 880p, to merge with Halifax, 35½p dearer on the day at 938p.

In the event, nothing materialised but there remains a growing conviction that the financial sector must undergo a period of consolidation.

Anyone bidding for a bank will currently have to pay top dollar. Brokers say it seems more likely that arranged marriages between the banks and the insurance companies will prove to be the wiser option.

In the meantime, shareholders in the big banks can settle down and await the outcome of the forthcoming dividend reporting season.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	8103.80 (-25.91)
S&P Composite	1004.58 (-2.32)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	17003.30 (+120.68)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10442.13 (+139.53)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	964.65 (+11.92)
Sydney:	
AO	2657.9 (+1.0)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4548.46 (+61.51)
Singapore:	
Straits	1492.15 (+66.92)
Brussels:	
General	15286.51 (+46.42)
Paris:	
CAC-40	3189.60 (+23.32)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1345.10 (+5.40)
London:	
FT 30	3427.6 (+14.6)
FTSE 100	5606.4 (+10.6)
FTSE 250	4956.0 (+20.2)
FTSE 350	2669.8 (+6.1)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2486.85 (-0.31)
FTSE All-Share	2599.85 (+6.26)
FTSE Non Financials	2565.70 (-1.00)
FTSE Fixed Interest	137.69 (-0.16)
FTSE Govt Secs	102.86 (+0.07)
Bargains	78868
SEAQ Volume	1005.1m
US$	1.6550 (+0.0017)
German Mark	2.9608 (-0.0292)
Exchange Index	104.4 (-0.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5006
£:SDR	1.2189
RPI	160.0 Dec (3.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.3 Dec (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abbey Natl Dublin II	97½	+ 4
Athlone Extrusions	97	...
Diageo B	510	...
General Inds	35½	...
Longmead (135)	140½	...
Marchpole	96½	...
Razorback Vehicles	102½	...
Richards Group	60½	...
Sanctuary Warrants	6½	+ 1¼
Second Scot Zr Dv Pf	101¼	...
Second Scottish Natl	110½	+ ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Derwent Vly n/p (520)	41½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Hardy Oil	285p (+37p)
Smith David	185p (+17½p)
Real Time	377½p (+30p)
Wilson (C)	165½p (+13p)
Grosvenor Inns	233½p (+18p)
Royalblue	365p (+27½p)
McAlpine (A)	153½p (+10p)
Lorien	640p (+35p)
GRE	408p (+21p)
Yule Catto	338½p (+16p)
Wetherspoon JD	305½p (+13p)
Compass Gp	825p (+35p)
Kewill Sys	740p (+29p)
ICI	978p (+39p)
AEA Tech	645p (+25p)
Halifax	938p (+35½p)
Morgan Cable	415p (+15½p)
Norwich Union	450p (+15p)
DCC	465p (+15p)
HIT Enter	315p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Brit Biotech	92p (-41p)
Powerscreen	201p (-26½p)
Photo-Me	178½p (-13p)
Abacus Recruit	300p (-20p)
Vanguard	477½p (-25p)
Shield Diag	677½p (-30p)
Scotia	330p (-12½p)
Biocomps Intl	375p (-12½p)
BT	580p (-18p)
Railtrack	899p (-23p)
Cadbury-Schw	716p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Cable gets weaving

IF VIEWERS despair at the prospect of 200 television channels, investors in cable television have equal reason to be glum about the performance of the cable TV industry. Therefore, yesterday's deal between NTL and Comcast UK is rather welcome for a number of reasons.

First, the necessary consolidation of the industry is gathering pace again after a year in which progress has been at a glacial pace following the creation of Cable & Wireless Communications. The second reason is that NTL, despite being up to its armpits in junk bonds, has been a genuine innovator in an industry where digging holes in the ground has taken priority over marketing the product and providing a decent service to customers. In particular NTL has pioneered small inexpensive packages — a few cable channels plus a telephone line — to test the product instead of making them buy channels they don't want. Customers then tend to trade up, improving NTL's yield.

The really intriguing possibility is that it may push the on-off talks between NTL and Telewest back on the rails again. At the very least the companies will have to talk because Telewest is a shareholder in two of the cable operations that NTL is buying — Cable London and Birmingham Cable. Moreover, Telewest has the right to match the NTL offer for the Comcast stakes in Cable London and Birmingham.

Even if Telewest simply exercises its rights it will still be a move, albeit a modest one, in the direction towards industry consolidation. That could get the underperforming cable sector moving.

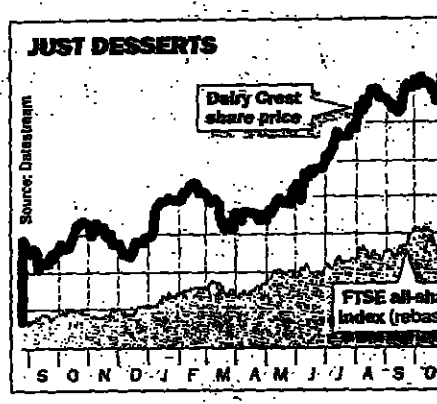
Dairy Crest

HARD-PRESSED dairy farmers rebuffed by Jack Cunningham can draw some comfort from their shares in Dairy Crest which seem to rise as the price of milk falls. Hardly surprising as raw milk is a core cost for the company's cheese, spread and dessert products, not to mention doorstep milk operations. The latter is in steady decline hence Dairy Crest's decision to invest £30 million in the joint venture purchase of Raines Dairy Foods.

Fresh dairy products are growing at 10 per cent per annum, an extraordinary rate in an industry where price disinflation and static population levels meant that businesses need to run just to stand still. Dairy Crest's joint venture with Sodiaal, selling Yoplait in Britain, has doubled its sales in six years but is still a minnow with £45 million of turnover in a billion-pound market.

The problem is the superstores which yet again control the commanding heights and want their house brands to lead the market. Rather than beat them, Dairy Crest is sensibly joining them, and Raines adds £115 million of own brand sales to the food retailers. Adding the Raines operations will improve the buying power of operation in the UK. And if sterling weakens, Yoplait imports may lose their price advantage.

Dairy Crest is still looking good after its long run and more milk price weakness could add some cream to its profits.



ICI

ICI could barely be restrained today from crowing about its transformation. Indeed, the engineers and bean counters at Imperial House are suddenly describing themselves as in the business of "sensory perception", news that may alarm those who thought they just made paints and chemical additives for the perfume and food industry.

ICI has almost all the pieces in place to achieve its target of growth and margin gain but the relative confidence about Asia seems to be premature and yesterday's boost to the share price puts ICI on an alarmingly aggressive rating given the systemic risks for manufacturers from a slowdown in the world's fastest growing economies.

ICI is now rated at a 35 premium to the UK market on forecast earnings and 55 per cent premium to the sector, assuming £525 million in profit this year. It is also well ahead of continental specialty chemical companies such as Ciba. Finally, ICI was so determined to clear the decks that it has written £100 million off some industrial assets in the 1997 accounts. Therefore a sale this year will not be encumbered with a loss. Unnecessarily cute and the shares are a bit rich too.

Monsoon

MONSOON's stockbroker has done the company proud. Only three years since the company was sent packing from the City with its tail between its legs, NatWest has managed to whip up a £352 million valuation at the top end of expectations.

Good news for chief executive Peter Simon — pricing the shares aggressively puts £86 million in his back pocket — but such bullishness at the company's debut leaves little hidden value to be extracted by new investors. Monsoon is certainly no disaster in the making. Mr Simon has built a strong brand, and a company that has enjoyed superb growth over a long period of time. There is nothing to suggest that the rainmaker will drive Monsoon into a desert.

The problem is in the 19 per cent profit margins and Accessorize, its jewellery chain, is most vulnerable. Oasis has already declared ambitions to launch its own jewellery chain and New Look is doubling its range. This all makes for an increasingly competitive market — with a downside.

The core clothing side has a better market, but the company's own comparisons to Laura Ashley are not encouraging. Also, rival Oasis has had a bad year — its recovery will not come without casualties elsewhere.

All told, Monsoon is a riskier investment than its 198p per share valuation makes out. Better value can be found elsewhere in the sector.

CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1006 BID	May	unq
May	1031-1030	Jul	1157 SLR
Jul	1054-1053	Sep	1178 BID
Sep	1076 SLR	Dec	unq
Dec	1099 SLR		
Mar	1126-1127		Volume: 12815

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1769-1768	Nov	1683-1680
May	unq	Jan	1668-1660
Jul		Mar	1668-1640
Sep	1705-1700		Volume: 2941

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	294.3-93.2
Spot: 291.0		Dec	297.3-95.7
Mar	287.5-85.3	Mar	303.8-01.1
May	292.0-90.8	May	304.0-03.3
Aug	297.3-96.0		Volume: 6343

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 4

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	74.88	77.85	92.19
(+/-)	+7.83	-1.72	-0.43
Eng/Wales:	74.88	78.08	89.24
(+/-)	+7.83	+0.13	-0.34
(%)	+9.0	-3.0	+2.0
Scotland	unq	77.29	93.77
(+/-)		+5.91	-1.43
(%)		-4.0	+20.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.70	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Mar)	15.25	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	15.50	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	16.60	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	16.90	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	159 (-1)	162 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	137 (n/c)	139 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	60 (-3)	62 (n/c)
Naphtha	151 (n/c)	153 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	140.25-40.50	May	145.00-45.50
Mar	141.50-41.75	Jun	147.25-47.50
Apr	143.00-43.25		Vol: 15558

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	15.26-15.27	Jun	15.97 SLR
Apr	15.48-15.50	Jul	16.11-16.16
May	15.69 BID		Vol: 26703

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	81.35	Mar	75.90
May	83.25	May	76.15
Jul	85.25	Sep	73.15
Sep	81.25	Nov	82.15
Nov	83.25	Jan	52.15
Volume: 374		Volume: 26	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	70.0
Apr	77.0	74.0
May	unq	96.0
		Volume: 32

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Mar 52.25-52.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 98	940	925	925
Mar 98	1005	975	980
Apr 98	1100	1050	1060
Jul 98	970	960	960
Vol: 152 lots		Open interest: 1511	

Index 950 -34

(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1698.0-1699.5	1723.0-1724.0	Vol: 1672900
Lead ($/tonne)	529.00-530.00	540.00-540.50	154550
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1087.0-1087.5	1111.0-1111.5	82450
Tin ($/tonne)	5260.0-5265.0	5260.0-5265.0	22795
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1503.0-1503.5	1524.5-1525.0	1932025
Nickel ($/tonne)	5425.0-5430.0	5510.0-5515.0	95490

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
ASDA	200	13½	21	24½	7½	11½	14
(*205)	220	6	12	15	19	22½	25
Abbey Nat	1250	95	136½	176	56	90½	120
(*1279)	1300	70	111½	152	91	115½	145
All&Lec	900	67½	104½	123½	35	48	67
(*938½)	950	55½	79	98	60½	72	87
Alld Dom	550	49	61½	67½	25½	38	40
(*564½)	600	28	40	44½	52	66	67
BAA	500	38½	53	65	13	28½	34½
(*517½)	550	15½	29½	42	46½	55	61
BAT Ind	550	49	66	76½	24½	27	47½
(*520)	600	24½	43	54	51	63½	74
Barclays	1900	143	205	237½	132	136	157½
(*1935½)	2000	97	156½	130	158½	187½	208
Bass	900	73	95	113	21	40	52½
(*940)	950	44	68	86½	42½	63	76
Boots	850	51½	71½	88½	34½	51½	62
(*854½)	900	31	49	66	63	79	89½
Br Airways	500	60	74½	89	10½	22½	29
(*543)	550	31½	48	64	33½	43	52½
BP	800	46½	72	98½	29½	53½	61½
(*804½)	850	26	51	56½	68½	81½	89
Br Steel	130	13	18½	20	4	10	11½
(*137½)	140	8½	14	15	9½	15½	17
C&W	600	50	68	87½	30	43½	53½
(*614½)	650	29½	45½	66	57½	77½	80
CU	950	110	138½	162½	43	58½	82
(*1021)	1050	82	113½	139½	86	83	106½
GlaxW	1900	137	214	248½	98½	146	159
(*1954)	2000	92	165½	199½	151½	197½	233
HSBC	1600	152½	236½	267	108½	154½	175½
(*1668)	1700	118½	189½	221	160	205½	226½
Halifax	900	77	103	115	41½	56½	57
(*937½)	950	53	84	89½	64	61	80½
ICI	950	57½	88	108½	38	58	72½
(*977½)	1000	34	63	84½	64	64	92
Land Sec	1050	81½	100	122	30	45½	57
(*1089½)	1100	54½	72	95½	57½	68½	80
M&S	550	37½	52	63	15	30	38
(*560)	600	15½	29½	40½	48	57½	66
Natl Pwr	650	46½	63½	76½	27½	46½	57
(*658½)	700	25	42½	55½	56	73½	85½
Nat West	1100	80	119½	141	74½	90	106½
(*1111)	1150	58	95	116½	103½	116	132
Reuters	550	51½	74	90	24	37	47½
(*579½)	600	27	50	66½	51	62½	72½
Ryl&Sun	700	44½	69½	77	51½	61	74½
(*701)	750	25½	49	56½	82½	90½	103½
Safeway	360	24½	34½	46½	15½	24	26½
(*366½)	390	12½	22	31½	32½	41	43½
Sainsbury	460	44	53½	64	10½	19½	24½
(*488)	500	21	33½	43	26½	39	43½
Shell	390	37	46½	55½	10½	19	24½
(*413½)	420	20	31½	40	24	35	38½
SmKl Bch	800	73	103	127	34½	58	98½
(*801)	850	49	79	103	58½	83	93
Std Chas	650	79½	116½	131	41	66½	76½
(*681½)	700	53	93½	108½	67	93	107½
Thames W	850	41½	65	73½	27	44½	53
(*854½)	900	20½	41½	51½	56	72½	81½
Vodafone	500	32	93½	77	29	43	51
(*503½)	550	21½	40½	55½	58½	73½	78½
Woolwich	360	31	40½	43½	15	30½	25½
(*374½)	390	17½	26½	37	31½	36	40½
Zeneca	2400	173	252½	318½	98½	157	177
(*2472½)	2500	121½	201	258½	147½	201½	225

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BTR	160	7½	16	20	2½	14	18
(*163)	180	1	8½	13½	18	27½	30½
Blue Circ	320	25½	41	45	1	13	13½
(*328)	330	8	24	31½	3	26½	27½
Br Aero	1700	43	133½	178½	35	94½	119½
(*1726)	1800	11	84½	132	100½	151½	174
Br Telcm	565	22	—	—	7	—	—
(*581½)	600	6½	31	46½	24½	41	50
Cadbury	700	25	48½	64	9½	35	43
(*714½)	750	4½	26½	41	39	64	71
Energy Gp	750	25½	31	35½	3½	4½	6½
(*772)	800	2½	6½	9	32	29½	32½
Gallaher	360	18	28	36	5½	20	24
(*371)	390	3	14	22½	22½	37½	40½
GEC	366	19	42½	43	½	10	16
(*385½)	390	6½	24½	32	10	21½	27

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	—	Puts Feb	Puts May	—
Diageo PLC	498	56½	67½	—	1	10	—
(*548)	556	10	25½	—	16½	35½	—

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Diageo PLC	498	51½	63	71½	½	9½	16
(*548)	556	6	27	38½	15	34½	40½
Hanson	290	9½	22½	29	4½	18½	13½
(*282½)	300	2½	14½	20	18	31	37½
Imp Tob	420	22	41	47½	4	15	22
(*438½)	460	3	21½	26½	24½	35	45
Kingfshr	950	37½	73½	120	12½	48½	59
(*972½)	1000	13	48½	69½	39½	74½	84
Lasmo	250	9½	22½	28½	5	11½	17
(*253)	280	2½	14½	20	17½	25	29
Ladbroke	280	9½	25	32	5	19	21½
(*284)	300	2	16½	23	17½	30½	32½
LucasVar	200	11½	20½	28½	2½	9½	13½
(*209)	220	1½	13½	19	12	19½	23
P&O	650	50	66½	77½	1½	16	27
(*897)	700	13½	36	50½	15½	38	50

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Prudentl	756	46½	77	101½	3	47½	57
(*782½)	800	15½	52½	77	22	67½	75
Rio Tinto	600	37½	64½	35	14	54	62
(*811½)	850	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	44½	84	[illegible]
Redland	330	15	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*344½)	360	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
R-Royce	200	6½	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	16½	17½
(*230)	220	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	29	29½
Tesco	500	29	45	[illegible]	[illegible]	22½	[illegible]
(*515)	550	[illegible]	17½	[illegible]	32	57½	58½
Utd Bisc	240	15½	21	27½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*256½)	260	[illegible]	11½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	23
BG PLC	205	28½	32	—	[illegible]	14	—
(*326)	330	12½	[illegible]	23	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ASDA	360	[illegible]	42½	47½	14	[illegible]	27
(*372½)	390	13	[illegible]	35	[illegible]	[illegible]	42½
Br Bio	90	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*91½)	100	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	15½	[illegible]	[illegible]
Centrica	100	11	15	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*102½)	110	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11½
Dixons	500	24	44	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	38½
(*500½)	550	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EMI	460	38½	57½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	44½
(*474)	492	22½	—	—	37½	—	—
Granada	900	45	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	53½
(*916)	950	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	78
GUS	750	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	22	32½	48½
(*763)	800	[illegible]	[illegible]	65½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lloyds TSB	850	52	102½	[illegible]	23	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*878½)	900	40½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	96½
Lonrho	100	7½	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*110)	110	2½	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	13½
Nomura	420	41	67½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*448½)	460	17½	29	43	[illegible]	36½	47½
Orange	200	20½	35	42	13½	26	32
(*200½)	220	3½	22	[illegible]	[illegible]	41	27½
Railtrk	850	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	67	59
(*867)	900	45	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	92
Sears Pwr	450	54	71½	79½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*498)	500	28	46	57	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tarmac	105	9½	10½	14½	2½	[illegible]	6
(*107½)	110	4½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	11½
Tomkins	300	20½	35½	44	[illegible]	3½	12½
(*323½)	330	13	32	27½	14½	21	[illegible]
Unilever	500	29	43	54	11½	22	33
(*510½)	525	16	30½	—	24	35½	—

February 5 Total: 23456 Calls: 27547 Puts: 12539

FTSE INDEX (*5583)

Strike	Calls Feb	Calls Mar	Calls Apr	Calls May	Calls Jun	Puts Feb	Puts Mar	Puts Apr	Puts May	Puts Jun
5400	232½	302½	350	337	452½	44	105	141½	—	213
5450	193½	262½	318½	366½	—	56½	117½	159½	195	—
5500	155	232	288	336	389½	69	135½	172½	215	249½
5550	122	202	257	305½	—	86½	156½	195	234½	—
5600	93	170	226	274½	327½	106½	179½	217½	254	285½
5650	68	142½	196½	244½	—	132½	203	242½	274	—
5700	49	120	172½	222	272½	161½	230	262	302	337
5750	33½	95½	148½	199	—	198½	256½	292	326½	—

February 5 Total: 20358 Calls: 18569 Puts: 1785

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 98	122-24	123-04	122-21	122-29	47253
Previous open interest 196129	Jun 98	106-25	106-25	106-23	106-26	767
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 98	106.29	106.32	106.08	106.22	129548
Previous open interest 260674	Jun 98	105.70	105.70	105.60	105.64	628
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Mar 98	105.18	105.18	105.15	105.16	510
Previous open interest 21232	Jun 98				104.81	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 98	117.11	117.31	117.08	117.25	34778
Previous open interest 143948	Jun 98	116.65	116.79	116.65	116.75	2144
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	128.85	128.92	128.69	128.78	2425
	Jun 98	128.22	128.26	128.04	128.11	592
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 98	92.48	92.58	92.48	92.54	33976
	Jun 98	92.62	92.72	92.61	92.66	46108
Previous open interest 777280	Sep 98	92.80	92.91	92.80	92.86	22700
Three Mth Euromark	Mar 98	96.40	96.42	96.39	96.42	32787
Previous open interest 1971926	Jun 98	96.23	96.26	96.23	96.25	76464
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 98	94.19	94.22	94.18	94.20	23084
Previous open interest 686919	Jun 98	95.03	95.10	95.03	95.08	43644
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 98	98.70	98.74	98.67	98.70	11313
Previous open interest 167021	Jun 98	98.58	98.61	98.56	98.58	6566
Three Mth ECU	Mar 98	95.63	95.65	95.62	95.65	1158
Previous open interest 34536	Jun 98	95.64	95.67	95.64	95.66	428
FTSE 100	Mar 98	5620.0	5697.0	5581.0	5591.0	13453
Previous open interest 1584	Jun 98				5654.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 1¼ Low 7¼ Week fixed: 7¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7; 3 mth 6¾. Sell: 2 mth 6¾; 3 mth: 6¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼
Interbank:	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼
Overnight: open 7¼, close 16.					
Local Authority Deps:	7¼	n/a	7¼	7¼	7¼
Sterling CDs:	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼
Dollar CDs:	5.51	n/a	5.53	5.53	5.56
Building Society CDs:	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼	7¼-7¼

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¼-5¼	5¼-5¼	5¼-5¼	5¼-5¼	5¼-4¼
Deutschemark:	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	4-3
French Franc:	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-2¼
Swiss Franc:	1¼-1	1¼-1¼	1¼-1	1¼-1¼	1¼-¼
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $298.00-298.40 Close: $296.60-297.10 High: $303.20-303.70 Low: $296.10-296.60 AM: $298.90 PM: $298.50

Krugerrand: $302.00-304.00 (£182.00-184.00)

Platinum: $404.00 (£241.70) Silver: $7.35 (£4.44) Palladium: $243.00 (£147.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3356-3.3599	3.3356-3.3386	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr
Brussels	61.130-61.530	61.131-61.185	21-16pr	63-56pr
Copenhagen	11.279-11.357	11.279-11.299	¼-¼pr	¼-¼pr
Dublin	1.1753-1.1866	1.1765-1.1785	13-7pr	43-36pr
Frankfurt	2.9594-2.9805	2.9594-2.9624	¼-¼pr	2¼-2¼pr
Lisbon	303.01-305.00	303.01-303.35	¼-¼pr	2¼-1¼pr
Madrid	250.96-252.97	250.96-251.13	55-44pr	179-161pr
Milan	2922.3-2936.2	2922.3-2926.2	35-18pr	104-81pr
Montreal	2.3826-2.3948	2.3829-2.3852	0.50-0.45pr	1.02-0.93pr
New York	1.6514-1.6556	1.6549-1.6558	0.248-0.227pr	0.773-0.742pr
Oslo	12.328-12.399	12.339-12.343	¼-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Paris	9.9147-9.9840	9.9147-9.9232	3¼-2¼pr	9¼-9¼pr
Stockholm	13.247-13.323	13.254-13.270	¼-¼pr	¼-¼pr
Tokyo	203.18-204.47	203.92-204.19	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr
Vienna	20.822-20.968	20.822-20.844	2¼-1¼pr	2¼-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3870-2.4040	2.3870-2.3901	1¼-1¼pr	3¼-3¼pr

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

Source: Extel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4710-1.4721
Austria	12.60-12.61
Belgium (Com)	36.97-37.01
Canada	1.4400-1.4405
Denmark	6.8285-6.8310
France	6.0022-6.0045
Germany	1.7914-1.7924
Hong Kong	7.7353-7.7363
Ireland	1.4025-1.4045
Italy	1768.75-1769.75
Japan	123.46-123.51
Malaysia	3.9555-3.9650
Netherlands	2.0193-2.0198
Norway	7.4568-7.4618
Portugal	183.36-183.46
Singapore	1.6620-1.6650
Spain	151.79-151.87
Sweden	8.0221-8.0271
Switzerland	1.4440-1.4450

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6545-1.6572
Australia dollar	2.4368-2.4401
Bahrain dinar	0.1655-0.6295
Brazil real*	1.8546-1.8575
China yuan	13.539-13.839
Cyprus pound	0.8660-0.8850
Finland markka	8.9500-9.0910
Greece drachma	466.5-477.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.8081-12.8175
India rupee	63.29-64.59
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4985-0.5095
Malaysia ringgit	6.5495-6.5692
New Zealand dollar	2.8107-2.8158
Pakistan rupee	71.15 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9475-6.0825
Singapore dollar	2.7544-2.7611
S Africa rand (com)	8.0400-8.2090
U A E dirham	6.0000-6.1360

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

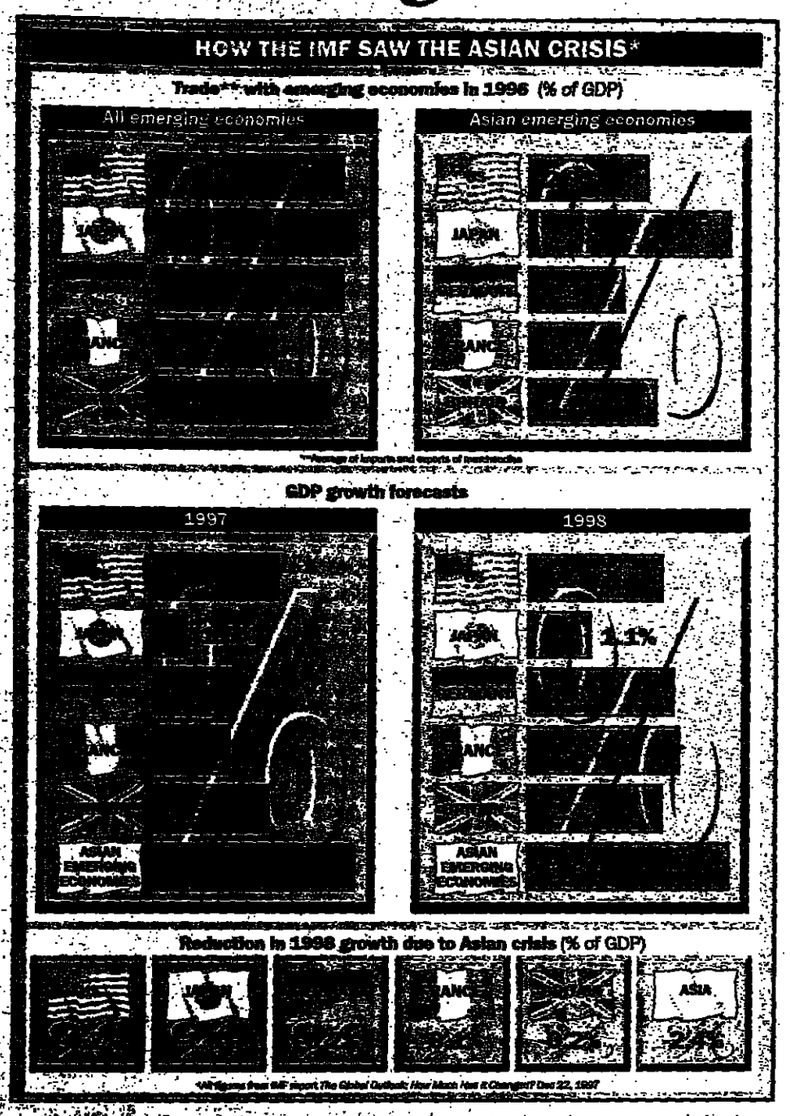
3i	861	Land Secs	878
AMVESCAP	982	Legal & Gnl	1,600
ASDA Gp	5,700	Lloyds TSB	11,000
Abbey Ntl	4,400	LucasVarity	2,100
Allnce & Leic	2,000	Marks Spr	10,500
Allied Dom	5,100	NatWst Bk	6,700
AB Foods	640	Nat Grid	3,200
BAA	4,000	Nat Power	2,200
BAT Inds	7,100	Next	3,400
BG	5,100	Norwich Un	6,900
BOC	1,700	Nycmd Amer	109
BP	13,200	Orange	2,800
BSkyB	3,900	P & O	2,200
BTR	17,400	Pearson	3,400
BT	16,900	PowerGen	2,100
Bk of Scot	3,800	Prudential	5,400
Barclays	6,500	Railtrack	1,600
Bass	3,400	Rank Group	5,100
Billiton	5,200	Reckitt Col	802
Blue Circle	2,300	Reed Intl	4,900
Boots	1,400	Rentokil	5,400
BAe	4,100	Reuters	8,600
BA	7,600	Rio Tinto	4,500
Brit Energy	1,300	Rolls Royce	13,100
British Land	1,200	Royal & Sun	6,000
Brit Steel	15,500	Royal Bk Sct	2,300
Cable Wire	10,200	Safeway	1,400
Cadbury	4,700	Sainsbury	1,700
Carlton Cms	8,500	Schroders	99
Centrica	9,400	Scot & New	1,600
Cm Union	861	Scot Power	6,200
Diageo	25,400	Svrn Trent	726
Dixons	2,500	Shell Trans	14,400
EMI	3,800	Siebe	1,400
Energy Gp	2,200	SmKl Bch	11,400
Enterpr Oil	483	Smiths Inds	802
GKN	1,900	Std Chartd	3,500
GRE	3,100	Sun Life	600
GUS	2,400	Tesco	5,500
Gen Acc	1,000	Thames W	2,600
Gen Elec	7,700	Tomkins	3,200
Glaxo Well	8,800	Unilever	11,400
Granada	2,800	Utd Utilities	6,000
HSBC	4,600	Utd News	1,100
Halifax	10,800	Vodafone	7,200
Hays	1,100	Whitbread	2,000
ICI	5,000	Williams	1,700
Kingfisher	1,500	Wolseley	2,000
LASMO	2,600	Woolwich	5,500
Ladbroke	2,300	Zeneca	3,100

	Feb 5 midday	Feb 4 close
AMP Inc	41¼	41½
AMR Corp	125¾	125½
AT & T	64¾	64¼
Abbott Labs	69¾	70¼
Advanced Micro	19¾	20
Aetna Life	79½	79½
Ahmanson (HF)	61½	59½
Air Prod & Chem	82½	83½
AirTouch Comm	43¾	43½
Albertson's	46½	47½
Alcan Aluminium	30¼	30½
Allied Signal	40¼	42½
Alum Co of Am	75½	76½
Amerada Hess	57½	57½
AEP	49½	48½
Amer Express	87½	87½
Amer Genl Corp	58½	57½
Amer Home Pr	89½	90½
Amer Intl	112½	113½
Amer Stores	22½	22½
Amer Standard	41½	41½
Ameritech	41½	42
Amgen	53	52½
Amoco	85	85½
Andrew Corp	29	29½
Anheuser-Busch	43½	45½
Apple Computer	18½	18½
Archer Daniels	21½	21½
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	72½	72½
Asarco	22½	22½
Atl Richfield	73½	73½
Atmel Corp	18½	17½
Auto Data Pro	61½	61½
Avery Dennison	47½	47½
Avon Products	67½	61½
Baker Hughes	41½	40½
Baltim Gas & El	30½	30½
Banc One	59½	60½
BankAmerica	71½	71½
Bank of NY	56½	55½
Bankers Tr NY	108½	107½
Bausch & Lomb	44½	43½
Baxter Intl	56½	56½
Bectn Dicknsn	63½	64½
Bell Atlantic	91½	92½
BellSouth	58½	60
Best Foods	99½	100½
Black & Decker	48½	48½
Block (H&R)	45½	45½
Boeing	46½	47½
Boise Cascade	33½	33½
Boston Scien	54½	54½
Bristol Myrs Sq	99	100
Browning Ferris	31½	31½
Brunswick	31½	31½
Burlington Nthn	90½	90½
CMS Energy Corp	42½	42½
CSX	55½	55½
CBS Corp	29½	30
Campbell Soup	55½	55½
Carolina Pwr	40½	40½
Case Corp	62½	62½
Caterpillar	49½	49½
Central & SW	26½	27
Champion Intl	51½	51½
Chase Manhat	113½	114½
Chevron Corp	76½	75½
Chrysler	35½	36½
Chubb Corp	78½	79½
Cigna Corp	176½	174½
Citicorp	125½	122½
Clorox	78½	78½
Coastal Corp	59½	59½
Coca Cola	67½	67½
Coca Cola Ent	33½	33½
Colgate-Palm	76½	76½
Columbia Energy	72½	72½
ColumbiaHCA	26½	26½
Compaq Comp	25½	34½
Comp Ass Int	57½	50½
Conagra	31½	31½
Cons Edison	42½	42½
Cons Nat Gas	54½	54½
Cooper Inds	50½	56
Corestates	77½	76½
Corning Inc	34½	34½
Crown Cork	51½	51½
Crown Cork	51½	51½
Dana Corp	51½	52½
Dayton Hudson	74½	74
Deere	54½	54½
Delta Air Lines	114½	112½
Deluxe Corp	34	33½
Digital Equip	61½	60½
Dillard Dept St	36½	37½
Disney (Walt)	108½	108½
Dominion Res	40½	40½
Donnelley (RR)	36½	37
Dover Corp	34½	35½
Dow Chemical	93	93½
Dow Jones	50½	51
Dresser	38½	37½
Duke Power	54½	54½
Dun & Bradstreet	31½	32
Du Pont	59½	59½
Eastman Chem	59½	60½
Eastman Kodak	64½	65½
Eaton Corp	93½	92½
Edison Int	29½	29½
Elect Data Sys	44½	44½
Emerson Elec	61½	61½
Engelhard Corp	17½	17½
Enron Corp	42½	42½
Entergy	28½	29
Ethyl Corp	7½	7½
Exxon	61½	61½
FDX Holding	67½	68½
FMC Corp	69½	68½
FPL Group	58½	58
Fifth Third Banc	78½	78½
Fleet Finl Grp	75½	75
Fluor Corp	40½	40½
Ford Motor	50½	51½
Fort James	42½	42½
Fortune Brands	37½	38½
Franklin Res	48½	48
GTE Corp	54½	54½
Gannett	60½	60½
Gap Inc Del	41½	40½
Gateway 2000	39½	41
Gen Dynamics	87	87½
Gen Electric	76½	77½
Gen Mills	72½	72½
Gen Motors	60½	61½
Gen Reinsurance	209½	209½
Gen Signal	39½	39½
Genuine Parts	33½	34
Georgia Pac	57	57
Gillette	100½	100½
Glaxo Welc ADR	64	63½
Goodrich (BF)	43½	43½
Goodyear Tire	63½	63½
Great Lakes	44½	45
Halliburton	49½	47½
Harcourt General	53½	54½
Heinz (HJ)	55½	56½
Hercules	48½	49½
Hershey Foods	63½	63½
Hewlett Packard	61½	60½
Hilton Hotels	28½	29½
Home Depot	62½	63
Homestake Mng	9½	9½
Honeywell	73½	73½
Household Intl	126½	126½
Houston Inds	26½	26½
Humana	21½	20½
ITT Corp	81½	81½
Ikon Office	33½	32½
Illinois Tool	55½	56½
Illinova	28½	29½
INCO	16½	17½
Ingersoll Rand	43½	42½
Inland Steel	20½	20½
Intel Corp	89½	87½
IBM	98½	98½
Intl Flav & Fr	43½	43½
Intl Paper	46½	47½
Jnsn & Jnsn	66½	66½
Kellogg	43½	43½
Kerr-McGee	63½	63½
Kimberly-Clark	54½	54½
Kmart	12½	11½
Knight-Ridder	55½	56½
Lilly (Eli)	67½	68½
Limited Inc	28	28½
Lincoln Nat	75	76½
Litton	61½	60½
Liz Claiborne	41½	41½
Lockheed Martin	107½	110
Louisiana Pac	21½	20½
MCI Comm	47½	47½
Manpower Inc	39½	39½
Marriott Int	71½	72½
Marsh & McLen	75	75½
Masco Corp	50½	50½
May Dept St	55½	55½
Maytag Corp	40½	40½
McDonalds	48½	48½
McGraw Hill	71½	71½
Mead Corp	33½	33½
Medtrust Corp	32	31½
Medtronic	53½	53½
Mellon Bk	62½	62½
Merck Inc	113½	114½
Mercury Fin	0½	0½
Merrill Lynch	67½	67
Microsoft	158½	158½
Minnesota Mine	87½	87½
Mirage Resorts	25½	25½
Mobil Corp	70½	70½
Monsanto	49½	50½
Morgan (JP)	107½	107½
Morton Inc	64½	64½
Mylan Labs	18½	18½
Natl Semi	29½	29½
Natl Service Ind	50½	50½
Navistar Int	31½	31½
NY Times A	66½	66½
Newmont Mng	27½	27½
Nike B	41½	42½
NL Industries	19½	18½
Nordstrom	51½	51½
Norfolk Sthrn	33	33½
Nthn States Pwr	57½	57½
Norwest Corp	38½	38½
Occidental Pet	25½	25½
Office Depot	24½	24½
Oracle	25½	24½
Oryx Energy Co	24½	24½
Owens Corning	27½	27½
PPG Industries	60	59½
PNI Group	69½	70½
PNC Bank	54½	54½
PP&L Res	22½	21½
Paccar Inc	56½	56½
Pacificorp	24½	24½
Pac Enterprises	35½	35½
PaineWebber	31½	32½
Pall Corp	20½	20½
Parker Hannifin	45½	44½
Peco Energy	19½	19½
Penney (JC)	66½	66½
Pennzoil	67½	69½
Pepsico	35½	35½
Pfizer	81½	81½
Pharm & Upjhn	39½	39½
Phelps Dodge	66½	66½
Philip Morris	43½	42½
Phillips Pet	44½	45½
Pitney Bowes	45½	45½
Polaroid	43½	42½
Procter & Gmbl	80½	80½
Providian	48½	48
Pub Serv E & G	31	31
Quaker Oats	50½	53½
Ralston Purina	94½	94½
Raychem Corp	38½	39½
Raytheon B	54½	54½
Reebok Intl	28½	29
Reliastar Fin	41½	41½
Reynolds Metals	63½	64
Rockwell Intl	57½	56½
Rohm & Haas	91½	89
Royal Dutch	52½	52½
Rubbermaid	25½	24½
SBC Comms	77½	78½
Safeco Corp	51½	51½
St Paul's Cos	86½	87½
Sara Lee Corp	53½	54½
Schering Plough	72½	73½
Schlumberger	77½	76½
Seagram	35½	34½
Sears Roebuck	50½	48½
Shell Trans	41½	41½
Sherwin Wliams	29	29½
Silicon Graphics	14½	15
Snap-On-Tools	40½	39½
Southern Co	24	24½
Southtrust	58½	58
Sprint Corp	58½	60
Stanley Works	45½	46½
Sun Company	40½	40½
Sun Microsys	49½	49
Suntrust	71½	72
Supervalu	44½	44½
Synovus Fin	33½	33½
Sysco Corp	47	47
TRW Inc	52½	53½
TIG Hldgs	25½	25½
Tandy Corp	41½	40½
Temple Inland	55½	56½
Tenet Healthcare	34½	35½
Tenneco	40½	41½
Texaco	57½	57½
Texas Inst	56½	56½
Texas Utilities	40½	40½
Textron	65½	66½
Thermo Elect	40½	40
Time Warner	64½	65½
Times-Mirror A	58½	58½
Timken	31½	31½
Torchmark	42½	42½
Toys R Us	28½	28½
Transamerica	107½	109½
Travelers	52½	53½
Tribune	60½	61½
UST Inc	34½	34½
US Bancorp	112½	113½
UAL	87½	88½
Unicom	30½	31½
Unilever NV	60½	59
Union Camp	59½	59½
Union Carbide	45½	47½
Union Pacific	62	61½
Unisys Corp	17½	17½
USF&G Corp	22½	22½
United Tech	84	86½
Unocal Corp	35½	35½
VF Corp	41	42½
Wal-Mart Stores	43½	42½
Warner-Lambert	155½	156½
Waste Mngmt	26	27½
Wells Fargo	316½	318½
Weyerhaeuser	51	50½
Whirlpool	60½	59½
Whitman	27½	27½
Winn Dixie	50½	50½
Wilson Corp	41½	41½
Woolworth	22½	22½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	73½	75½
Xerox	85½	85½
Xilinx Inc	40½	40½

World can keep 'supertanker' from colliding with reality

Asia's crisis is far from over but a strong force could save global economy





Crisis? What crisis? Last Saturday I chaired a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, entitled "The Asian crisis and world growth: recession in 1998?" The issues suggested for discussion were outlined in the programme like this: "Economists have predicted that the Asian crisis will decrease growth in the US and Europe by 0.5 to 1 per cent. Is this too optimistic? Is the world economy, in fact, headed for recession?"

In launching the discussion, I decided to be provocative and offer a hostage to fortune. Instead of a global recession, I suggested, the big surprise of 1998 might be an unexpectedly strong pattern of global growth. The momentum of recovery remained strong in America and Britain. The peripheral European countries, such as Italy and Spain, would probably cut their interest rates to the extremely low levels prevailing in Germany and France, instead of the other way round. And Japan might surprise the world with a really decisive Keynesian demand stimulus in the new financial year. Since Europe, America and Japan account for 80 per cent of global demand and output between them, such positive developments could counteract the drag on global growth from the crises in the Far East.

To my surprise, my "provocative" optimism turned out to be anything but provocative. It turned out that the four other members of the panel, which consisted of economists and bankers from America, Europe and Hong Kong, were even more optimistic than I was. Their reasons for confidence were different from mine; nobody, for example, shared my optimism on Japan. But everyone agreed that the worst was now over in Asia and that a global recession was extremely unlikely. One of the speakers, a very senior and very sober German banker, went so far as to suggest that we were unlikely to see another global recession in our lifetimes, since independent central banks and the single currency in Europe would guarantee that inflation remained permanently under control.

This confidence was extremely widespread at Davos. From prime ministers and central bank governors to the chairmen of such global companies as Microsoft, Nestlé and Siemens everyone seemed to agree that the Asian crisis was no more than a pinprick. Speech after speech predicted that the world would continue to enjoy a glorious era of rapid growth and low inflation, that Asia would soon recover, that America would continue to navigate the narrow channel between inflation and deflation and that Europe would prosper under the single currency and would soon rediscover the knack of creating jobs. And, just to confirm that these happy visions were not brought on by the thin mountain air, Price Waterhouse issued a more rigorous survey of businessmen's views in Davos. According to this survey, which questioned the chief executives of multinational companies with a combined turnover of $2.2 trillion, 62 per cent were "optimistic" and 33 per cent were "extremely optimistic" about growth prospects in the next three years. Only 5 per cent said they were pessimistic or that they had no view.

For someone like myself, who has spent the past 20 years following the contrary moves of economies, business opinion and financial markets, such overwhelming optimism rings alarm bells. But is the world really as overconfident as my anecdotes from Davos suggest?

Only a month ago, at the time the Davos programme was printed, the organisers of the World Economic Forum were certainly not alone in their gloom. When 1998 began, it was fashionable to suggest that an economic meltdown in Korea, Indonesia and other Asian countries could tip the global economy into recession. Some of the world's most respected economic commentators, including both Alan Greenspan and George Soros, were speculating about the possibility of 1930s-style deflation. Renato Ruggiero, the head of the World Trade Organisation, was reminding

Thousands of Asian firms are going to go bust and tens of millions will lose their jobs

the world that financial crisis followed by depression and protectionism had been one of the contributory causes of the to Second World War. Stock markets were swooning, commodity prices were collapsing and long-term interest rates, especially in Japan and Europe, were falling to their lowest levels on record — levels which suggested that further monetary easing was becoming more likely than the tightening that had previously been expected, in America, Germany and Britain, to forestall inflation and control excessive growth.

Why, then, does everything look so different a month later? And why are stock markets around the world soaring to unimaginable new highs?

If the state of the world economy seems to be confusing people such as Messrs Greenspan and Soros, there may not be much hope for ordinary mortals. Still, the paradoxes in the present situation may not be quite as bewildering as they appear.

There are two strong forces acting on the world economy at present and they are pushing in opposite directions. Opinions are bound to swing, and markets to swing wildly, as the balance between these forces shifts. The first of these forces is the Asian financial crisis. This crisis is nowhere near over, despite the sudden outbreak of optimism that has followed the rescheduling of Korean bank loans and the new IMF programme for Indonesia. The economic impact of this crisis has hardly begun to be felt — even in Asia, never mind the rest of the world. Thousands of Asian companies are going to go bankrupt and tens of millions of workers will lose their jobs. For Europe and America, the loss of exports to Asia and the cut-throat competition in world markets, will only begin to have a real impact in the months ahead. And the capital flight is only just beginning from Russia and Central Europe, to which Germany and the rest of Europe are particularly vulnerable.

The true scale of the damage caused by the Asian crisis will not begin to be visible in economic statistics and company profits until the second half of the year. Until the pain becomes apparent, investors and businessmen may remain in a state of denial, just as they did in Japan after last year's disastrous tax increase. In the next few months, analysts may continue to be surprised by how little impact Asia is having on profits and economic growth. But once reality dawns the shock to confidence could be severe, as it was in Japan last year. From this point of view, the recoveries of the Asian currencies and stock markets still look like no more than a "dead-cat" (or dead-tiger) bounce.

On the other hand, the financial markets could be saved from a painful collision with reality by the other great force at work in the world economy this year. This is the strong momentum of demand in America and Britain and, even more importantly, the probability that Japan will soon inject its economy with a strong dose of tax cuts and other fiscal stimuli. Despite the scepticism expressed about Japan by most people in Davos, Eisuke Sakakibara, the vice-minister of finance, repeatedly referred to a historical precedent discussed on this page over the past six months: "Our Prime Minister," he said "has no intention of going down in history as Japan's Herbert Hoover. He has made clear that Japan will not be repsonsible for a world recession and he will do whatever is needed to sustain economic growth."

Since Japan's economy is twice as big as the rest of Asia put together, the Japanese Government's policy is all-important. This column has repeatedly argued that there is nothing wrong with the Japanese economy that cannot be cured with a tax cut. The Japanese are notorious for operating only by consensus and for sticking to an old consensus, even when it no longer works. Changing the consensus is a painfully slow business, like turning a supertanker, but once the consensus does change, the Japanese have an amazing capacity to take any new policy to its logical extreme. If the consensus finally is turning — and all the news from Tokyo suggests that it is — Japan could end up surprising the world by the strength of its economic recovery and pulling the rest of Asia out of the depression. Then and only then will the optimism of the businessmen at Davos — and, perhaps, of the global stock markets — prove justified.

'Currency Doctor' offers cure for Asia's ailments

As Asia's currencies have crumbled, one American proponent of how such disasters can be averted has emerged with his reputation enhanced.

Steve Hanke, an expert on world currency movements, has been arguing forcefully, and controversially, for nearly ten years that the key to preventing economic meltdown in a developing country is to remove control of monetary policy from the central bank and give it to a currency board.

This week, Dr Hanke was invited to Indonesia, where he briefed President Suharto for an hour about currency boards and later met the Minister of Finance, the Governor of Bank Indonesia and other central bank officials. Before flying home to the US on Thursday, Dr Hanke said that he left his meeting with Mr Suharto believing "things were rapidly moving in the right direction".

Observers in Jakarta remained sceptical that Indonesia could accept the iron-fisted discipline of a currency board, given its tradition of political interference in economic decisions. No moves are considered likely before the presidential election on March 11, in which Mr Suharto seems certain to be re-elected. Still, the rupiah finished below 10,000 to the dollar for the first time in weeks.

A currency board operates on a rigid principle. Its currency is made fully convertible at a permanently fixed rate with a hard currency, usually the US dollar or the mark. To meet this guarantee, the board must keep enough reserves in the anchor currency to cover the money in circulation. As a result, according to the Hanke thesis, capital is attracted and investors are reassured. The impulse to print more money is removed from the hands of politicians.

Hong Kong has enjoyed the benefits of a currency board since 1983 after its exchange rate went into freefall and panic hoarding set in. Although some financiers' nerves have frayed in recent days, the authorities have shown no sign of abandoning the board and the Hong Kong dollar has held firm at its fixed price to the US dollar.



Hanke: advocates boards

Dr Hanke is a professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, where he embodies the academic archetype, puffing on his pipe and working in a study piled high with files and books.

Known as the "Currency Doctor", he has two other personas. One is his active role in the markets as chairman of Friedberg Mercantile Group, a currency and securities trading company, and president of Toronto Trust-Argentina, a high-flying emerging market mutual fund. His third calling is as a globetrotting adviser to countries interested in currency boards. Since 1990, he has been associated with setting up boards in Argentina, Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Several other governments have consulted him, but have not taken the plunge, at least not yet.

Dr Hanke's mentor on the subject was Sir Alan Walters who was involved in establishing the Hong Kong currency board while he was economic adviser to Baroness Thatcher.

Currency boards fell out of fashion in the 1950s under pressure from Keynesian economists who were promoting the flexibility of central banks and as colonies gaining independence became eager to shake off their imperial ties. Also, says Dr Hanke, the International Monetary Fund lent its weight and money to new central banks to "obtain new clients and create jobs for the boys".

Dr Hanke found currency boards had all maintained full convertibility with their anchor currencies and had achieved impressive records of price stability, respectable economic growth and balanced government budgets.

Dr Hanke's first hands-on involvement was Argentina in 1991. Since then, Argentina has weathered a painful recession caused by the swamping effect of Mexico's peso crisis but now has better growth prospects than most emerging economies.

Dr Hanke says that data compiled from emerging countries over the past 25 years shows that those with currency boards had average growth rates 2.1 times higher than central bank countries. Fluctuations in growth were almost identical, suggesting that central banks did no better than currency boards in cushioning external shocks. Inflation was 3.2 times higher with central banks than currency boards, and financial emergencies were less frequent and severe with currency boards.

Dr Hanke also defends his own lucrative currency speculating as helping his credibility. He said: "The experience is invaluable. I know precisely what works and what doesn't. It's not just an academic exercise for me."

IAN BRODIE

BUSINESS LETTERS

Hampel report is deeply flawed

From Mr Ralph Instone

Sir, The two basic flaws in the interim report of the Hampel committee do not appear to have been addressed in its final report.

First, there is no recognition that the duty of directors is owed exclusively to the company as a separate legal entity. That is why shareholders cannot sue directors for negligence or incompetence. The question whether this immunity should continue surely merited consideration — although turkeys do not vote for Christmas.

Secondly, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of charitable and non-profit-making companies whose directors owe duties of exactly the same nature as do those of commercial companies, but to whom "shareholder value" is an irrelevance.

If anything is to be gained by codifying the duty of directors, which is itself debatable, the Department of Trade and Industry could hardly fail to make a better job of it than Hampel.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH INSTONE,
18 Fairacres,
Roehampton Lane,
London SW15 5LX.

Hard facts behind a soft landing

From Mr Neil Marshall

Sir, While the pundits continue to argue their case for a soft landing for the UK economy this year, the reality for the majority of companies fighting to preserve our dwindling export markets is the stark choice of soldiering on for a further 12 months on unacceptably low, or negative, margins on their export sales or a savage, possibly permanent, contraction of their businesses.

The blood-letting has begun. Efforts to stave off the ravages of a rerun of the 1981 recession appear sadly out of step with those who can influence or control our economic destiny.

Ironically, this time round the warning signs should be clearer, and the potential long-term damage to our fragile manufacturing base better understood, by Government — only the political will appears missing to take the decisive action necessary urgently to ratchet back exchange rates. If short-term hikes in personal taxation result, then so be it — jobs and national wealth are more important considerations for the longer term.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MARSHALL
(Director General),
Confederation of British Industry,
Forgers, Grove Hill House,
245 Grove Lane, Handsworth,
Birmingham, B20 2HB.

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HARD to know why any self-respecting analyst would wish to be identified by finance and investor relations directors as a soft touch, but it seems the nation's corporates are all terribly fond of Merrill Lynch. The latest in an endless round of brokers' surveys has placed the US investment house well ahead of anyone else as UK industry's favourite stockbroker for research, while kicking Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, last year's winner, well down the table to sixth place. SBC Warburg Dillon Read reclaims top slot as leading securities house for corporate finance advice, according to the survey from Consensus Research, published in the Securities Institute's house journal, the *Securities and Investment Review*.

Various analysts have been singled out by the 171 larger companies taking part for their general gorgeousness and scrumminess, none of whom I will be cruel enough to identify. (Oh, all right, except for my old friend Nick Pink at SBC. Ha, ha). There is some appallingly dull stuff about how finance directors are undecided about European monetary union, or something, which I couldn't be bothered to read. But there is hope for the humble analyst. Apparently, two out of five directors think the teenage scribblers do not properly appreciate their marketing strategies. And amen to that.



"Looks like their new spring range has come in"

☐ *A COLLEAGUE is approached by Royal & Sun Alliance with an unbeatable offer — 10 per cent off car insurance. Except that he drives a nasty silver thing called a BMW Z3 and was turned down by the Royal & SunAlliance a while back because they do not quote for undersized virility symbols. He was in good company, though. "Don't take it too hard, love," said the Royal then, "we turned down Jamie Redknapp (Liverpool footballer and consort of some pop star or other) last week."*



Bully off

A "FRIENDLY" hockey match on Wednesday night left Jason Toole, trader at Grieg Middleton, in Guy's Hospital casualty unit for three hours. Nothing unusual about that, City types are always clubbing each other over the head in the pursuit of unnecessary exercise, but the assailant in this case was one of our elected representatives. Tim Loughton, MP for East Worthing and Shoreham, was getting in some early practice for the next Countryside Rally on March 1, when he will be present in support of the bloodsports lobby.

The match was between Grieg Middleton and Fleming Asset Management, and I am still unclear why the latter needed to field a ringer. It could have been worse, but Eric Cantona was otherwise engaged.

Murphy's law

A RARE sighting of a species once thought extinct: Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, is again seeking election to the bank's board at the annual meeting on April 21, and he claims to be promoting the interests of NatWest stakeholders. (For younger readers, stakeholding was a new Labour touchstone before the election, a bit like the Millennium Dome but more tangible and easier to see the point of; it passed away peacefully on May 2). Unfortunately NatWest shareholders, by contrast, used their block votes so overwhelmingly against Murphy at last year's AGM that even he describes it as "the greatest election defeat in history".

Murphy was then standing against Martin Owen, managing director of NatWest Markets, who survived the annual meeting by three months, as it turned out. This year he is asking shareholders to increase the number of directors by one. "The staff have no say in the strategic direction of the bank," he says. And his chances this time around, against those same institutional block votes? "Not this year," he admits sadly. "Just give it a year or two."

☐ *INVESTORS tired of waiting around for their first dividend from Eurotunnel might consider selling their shares and trotting along to Phillips next Thursday to put in a bid for one of the earliest Channel Tunnel share certificates. The auctioneer is selling 57 individual lots of original certificates from various rail companies, mostly British, including a bond issued to fund a cross-Channel steam train link dating from 1892, one from the Stockton and Darlington railway and another from France designed by the artist Alphonse Mucha, below. The oldest is from the Hereford Railway in 1829, which used horse-drawn carriages. Some of which have since been spotted on Conner South East.*

MARTIN WALLER



In train: Mucha share certificate on offer

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Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	140.11	149.30	+ 0.13	
Do NAV to Mar 20	134.56	134.56		
UK Equity Safeguard	111.04	118.75	- 0.12	2.47
Do NAV to Mar 20	105.85	105.85		
Cash	951.11	956.87		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	407.30	431.70	+ 5.70	1.65
UK Small Cos	84.22	90.07	+ 0.22	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	101.55	108.60	+ 0.34	2.11
Geared UK Index	2649.99	2797.09	- 52.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	82.94	85.94	- 0.43	
Monthly Inc	43.42	46.351	- 0.06	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	103.20	121.70	- 2.10	
American Strat	235.17	251.50	+ 2.63	
JG US Index	2413.27	2542.71	+ 19.00	4.00
European Gen	351.60	372.70	+ 6.10	0.68
European Strat	147.20	157.42	+ 1.30	
Japan Gen	109.70	116.30	- 0.10	
Asia Pacific	64.28	68.35	+ 0.32	1.08
Pacific Strat	102.78	109.83†	+ 0.10	
Greater China	184.05	196.83	- 1.00	
Latin America	101.05	108.06†	- 1.32	
Intl Growth	168.72	180.44	- 0.61	
Balanced Exempt	160.30	166.30		2.29
Global Strategy	45.67	48.84	+ 0.10	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	909.00	967.00	+ 9.00	2.35
General Inc	740.90	788.10	+ 7.40	2.35
UK Growth Acc	627.20	667.20	+ 5.60	2.33
UK Growth Inc	396.40	421.70	+ 3.50	2.33
Higher Inc Acc #	1168.00	1242.00	+ 10.00	4.40
Higher Inc Inc #	599.20	637.40	+ 4.60	4.40
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	236.29	249.40	- 0.10	5.53
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	99.36	103.80	- 0.10	5.52
Nth America	437.90	465.80	- 0.80	
Europe	489.00	520.20	+ 10.40	0.54
Brit Exccell	124.30	132.20	- 1.10	2.19
Brit Fndmts Acc	155.10	164.90	+ 0.90	4.32
Brit Fndmts Inc	99.36	105.70	- 0.50	4.22
Global Opps	118.20	125.70	- 1.20	0.25
Balanced Acc	77.40	82.33	+ 0.56	2.34
Balanced Inc	70.82	75.33	+ 0.52	2.34
Japan Acc	36.05	38.35	+ 0.25	
Pac Basin Acc	283.50	301.50	- 1.80	2.22
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	145.10	154.00		5.81
High Inc Equity	235.80	252.20†	- 2.60	4.00
Worldwide Bond	271.60	288.10†	- 0.60	3.48
American Growth	535.20	569.30†	- 2.40	0.22
Asian Pacific	209.00	223.50	- 1.90	0.55
Assets & Earnings	376.20	402.40	- 3.90	2.54

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هكذا من الاصل

Early lead dwindles

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Nibbies make their mark

The Oscars of the publishing world were presented in London last night. **Liz Thomson** *introduces a three-page report*

STUMPF/REX FEATURES



The awards celebrate the unsung heroes of the publishing world, including hardworking backroom staff

Ned Sherrin, doyen of gavel-wielders, was master of ceremonies last night as the luminaries of the publishing industry packed the London Hilton's vast ballroom to receive the British Book Awards – or "Nibbies", as they are known.

Prizewinning authors such as Jilly Cooper and Helen Fielding mixed with prizewinning publishers, booksellers and sponsors to create a star-studded, friendly and well-established event. Yet the Nibbies are relatively new.

The noise made by the publishing industry has always been in inverse proportion to the number of people employed in it. To outsiders, the industry is perceived as glamorous.

Strange, then, that just ten years ago there were no awards to mark the achievements of those who worked within the book world. The Booker, the Whitbread, the Smarties, the late lamented NCR – all of these recognise and reward literary excellence.

For the publishing houses and their hard-working editors, or the bookshops and their staff, there were no accolades, no Oscars, "Tonys" or Brits.

In the late 1980s, Fred Newman, publisher and Editor of *Publishing News*, the industry weekly, began seriously to consider how a book trade Academy Awards-style evening might shape up. What, precisely, would be the categories? Who would vote? Equally important, who would support it through sponsorship?

"I'd long wanted the trade to be able to celebrate itself, to honour the talents and achievements of more than just a handful of big-name authors," Newman recalls. "Literary excellence is all well and good but what I felt was needed in addition was acknowledgment of publishing's commercial success stories and of those people who worked hard behind the scenes."

The late 1980s was not a good time for the industry which made headlines as much for its economies as for its literary excellence. "The job losses were on an unprecedented scale and everywhere there was belt-tightening," continues Newman, "so it seemed to me even more important for the industry to remind itself of the talent therein."

Inevitably, enthusiasm mixed with scepticism as Newman, together with his then business partner the late Clive Labovitch, Martyn Goff of Book Trust and former publisher Graham C. Greene announced the date for the first British Book Awards. The event took place on January 18, 1990 at the Park Lane Hotel, with Lord Lichfield as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets were soon sold out and guests including P.D. James, Jeffrey Archer, A.S. Byatt and Jilly Cooper saw the very first "Nibbies" (as the large, golden, nib-shaped awards were soon christened) presented to Peter Mayle, Roald Dahl and HRH The Prince of Wales, named Author of the Year for *A Vision of Britain*, his controversial book on architecture. Robert McCrum, accepting the laurels for Publisher of the Year on behalf of Faber & Faber, lambasted the decision, declaring that only the embattled Salman Rushdie was entitled to be named Author of the Year. Rushdie eventually won in 1995.

In the years since, both the evening itself and the awards have been fine-tuned. Nomination forms are printed in both *Publishing News* and *The Bookseller*. Anyone in the trade is allowed to nominate in any or all of the dozen or so categories. From these nominations, shortlists are drawn up and an "Academy" of more than 100 publishers, agents and booksellers votes to determine the winners, the only proviso being that they may not vote for any individual or company in whom they have a vested interest.

In nine years, the British Book Awards have become a fixture in the publishing year. A "Nibbie" carries increasing cachet, and none more so than the coveted Publisher of the Year Award. Recipients include Dorling Kindersley, Headline, Little Brown and Transworld who, in 1995, made it a hat trick.

Individual awards have gone to Bill Bryson, Delia Smith, Sebastian Faulks, Roddy Doyle, Jung Chang, Andrew Morton, and Alan Bennett.

"Were it not for the British Book Awards, the contributions of many people to the health of our industry would have gone unsung," says Newman. "You might not approve of Andrew Morton or his work, but there is no denying that his biography of the Princess of Wales made a huge impact, socially and commercially. Without the Services to Bookselling Award – sponsored, incidentally, by Publishing News's rival, *The Bookseller* – the contribution of the philanthropist Paul Hamlyn would have gone unmarked by the industry to which he has contributed much. And without the Nibbies for Editor of the Year or Bookseller of the Year and, this year, Rep of the Year, those at the sharp end of publishing might go unsung.

"If the British Book Awards demonstrate to the public just how much goes into the books they buy at their bookshop – not *just* the writing, but the editing and design, the production and promotion, the selling – then I'm delighted."



Master of ceremonies Ned Sherrin

THE WINNERS

The *BCA* **Illustrated Book of the Year Award:** *The Lost Gardens of Heligan*. Tim Smit (Gollancz)

The Bookseller **Services to Bookselling Award:** Dick Francis

The *Butler & Tanner* **Book of the Year Award:** *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Helen Fielding (Picador)

The Children's Book of the Year Award: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. J.K. Rowling (Bloomsbury)

The *David & Charles* **Independent Bookseller of the Year Award:** Fred Hanna's Bookshop, Dublin

The *Display Creations* **In-Store Marketing Award:** Bookends, Christchurch

The Editor of the Year Award, sponsored by *Ken Follett*: Liz Calder (Bloomsbury)

The *Enso Group* **Design and Production Award:** Anchor imprint (Transworld)

Exel Logistics **Newcomer of the Year Award:** Daisy & Tom

The *Expert Books* **Marketing Campaign of the Year Award:** The Waterstone's marketing team and Colman Getty for the *Books of the Century* promotion

The *KPMG* **Publisher of the Year Award:** Random House

The Lifetime Achievement Award: Jilly Cooper

The *Reader's Digest* **Chain Bookseller of the Year Award:** Waterstone's Glasgow

The *Securicor Omega Express* **Author of the Year Award:** Louis de Bernieres

The *Vista Computer Services* **Distributor of the Year Award:** Littlehampton Book Services

The Representative of the Year Award, sponsored by *Waterstone's*: Tina Miller (Walker Books)



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JULIAN MAKEY/REX



Jilly Cooper found she had a ready-made readership

'It's 1% heaven and 99% hell'

Jilly Cooper, winner of the Lifetime Achievement award, began her career as most writers do: wading through a pool of rejection slips. Her first stories were written in her teens, and she laughs as she recalls them.

"They were all about my local pony club and were absolutely dreadful. I also wrote unpublishable plays. I remember sending one of my better plays to *Woman's Own*, and enclosed a note telling them they ought to publish it. They sent it straight back."

Disappointed but not defeated, she took a job, when she was 18, as a cub reporter on the *Middlesex Independent*. Progress was slow.

"I wanted to get to Fleet Street, where I expected to earn lots of money. But nothing happened. So I went off and did lots of other things: working in advertising, publishing, selling candelabras at exhibitions ... God knows what else. Of course, it was a good experience and wonderful material."

Cooper, 60, sold her first story when she was 27. Her break came two years later when she met Godfrey Smith, then Editor of *The Sunday Times* magazine, at a dinner party. They talked and laughed. He admired the loose, colloquial familiarity of her conversation: her eccentric wit, her verve. He asked her to write something for a special issue he was preparing on marriage. Her contribution, *The Young Wife's Tale* (Cooper was 31 and married to the publisher Leo Cooper) was the precursor of what has become an established, if tiresome, journalistic form: the chatty, self-savouring, confessional column.

"That column," Cooper says from her home in Gloucestershire, "was the start of my finding a readership and a voice. It's phenomenally lucky for a writer having this weekly shop window, for when you come to publish books you have a ready-made audience."

Jilly Cooper speaks as she writes: in rapid, giggly bursts. To keep up with everything she says you need a good tape-recorder or the skills of an expert stenographer. Reflecting on a writing career that has seen her sell more than eight million copies of her 35 novels, Cooper says: "Even now I dislike the actual process of writing. When things are going well – which is about 1 per cent of the time – it can be absolute heaven: but mostly the struggle to create is hell. That said, I wouldn't – couldn't – do anything else."

JASON COWLEY

BOOK OF THE YEAR

One for the diary

HERE are few novels whose central characters become as real to readers as their next-door neighbours. But Bridget Jones, the anti-heroine of *Bridget Jones's Diary*, has entered the public consciousness: her name shorthand for a way of life that involves numerous unsuccessful liaisons, too many cigars and bottles of wine and a hopelessly expanding waistline like Alan Clark. Bridget has been spotted and narrated. She has been the subject of new paper profiles and editorials. Therapists Oliver James put her on the psychiatrist's couch and diagnosed her in need of further treatment.

As Newsweek commented when it declared a page-turner that had then still to find an American publisher: "Rarely since Emma has Britain been so charmed by a fictional female character." On one evening last month, both BBC's and ITV's main news programmes paused in the catalogue of doom and gloom to consider Britain's latest literary phenomenon.

Helen Fielding, the author, denies that she and Bridget are one and the same person but, if they are, Fielding must surely be pleased that, with British sales of 700,000 copies for her publishers, Picador, and rising, there is enough cash to keep her miserable in comfort. All over the country, booksellers report women asking for "the book about that Bridget woman", testimony to the fact that Bridget's appeal is national. And international: 20 foreign editions have been sold and American rights have now been bought by Viking. Work on the screen version begins this summer.

Like her creation, Fielding is a thirtysomething singleton who lives in West London. Amusing and self-deprecating, she is Oxford-educated and spent ten years working for the BBC. In 1994 she wrote a novel, *Cause Celeb*, in which a publishing PR falls for a heartless television producer. When *The Independent* asked her to write a column, Bridget was plucked from the book's cast of characters and given a life of her own.

Bridget Jones's Diary is, she says, for "perhaps a new type of woman, who is in her thirties and is single through choice or through not needing to marry until it's right, and they're struggling with their identity. They were brought up on the idea of being *Cosmo* girl. You have the red hatchback, the immaculate white flat, you go to the gym, you don't smudge your mascara all day – but on the other hand, you ask yourself, 'why aren't I married?'"



Bridget's creator, Helen Fielding

Statistics support her view: of 3.8 million British women in their thirties, about one million are single or divorced and the Office for National Statistics estimates that by the turn of the century, 25 per cent of women will be unmatched. Which can only be good news for Bridget and her alter ego.

Backing the very best

ACCOUNTANTS, an author, a computer company and a security firm were among the sponsors of last night's awards for all concerned with the business of publishing.

The most prestigious award, Publisher of the Year, has been sponsored from the outset by KPMG. During the nine-year history of the awards, KPMG has progressed from being accountants and auditors to the trade to providing a complete financial, tax advisory and information technology consultancy to publishers.

"Although we have always declined to take part in the judging, we hope the award will recognise a publisher's excellence in all aspects of the trade," says Richard Bawden, KPMG partner specialising in publishing.

The Book of the Year Award was sponsored by Butler & Tanner, the UK's leading book printer with six factories in the south of England. "The strength of the pound means we face a daily challenge to keep the printing of British books in Britain," says Adrian Hue, the company's joint managing director. "By investing in the latest technology and providing a high-quality service, it is a challenge we meet with some success."

The Author of the Year award was sponsored by Securicor, which distributes most publishers' books to high street retailers through its Omega Express division. "This award allows us to be associated with the best in the business," says Mark Peacock, marketing manager.

Reader's Digest sponsored the Chain Bookseller of the Year award partly because it relies on the shops to sell its consumer titles, covering subjects from interior design to country walks and cookery.

"We publish only about 25 books a year, but some of those will sell 100,000 and we rely on the involvement of bookshop managers to achieve that," says Cortina Butler, editorial director. "They can make a tremendous difference with window displays, book signings and by tailoring events to meet the local community."

One of the more unusual awards was to the Representative of the Year, sponsored by Waterstone's. Martin Lee, marketing director, explains: "We don't have central buying; we leave all the decisions to branches so the relationship between a publisher's rep and our managers is crucial."

Other sponsors were: BCA, Illustrated Book of the Year; The Bookseller, Services to Bookselling; David & Charles, Independent Bookseller of the Year; Display Creations, In-Store Marketing; Ken Follett, Editor of the Year; Enso Group, Design and Production; Exel Logistics, Newcomer of the Year; Expert Books, Marketing Campaign of the Year; Vista Computer Services, Distributor of the Year.

TONY DAWE



Michael Palin's *Full Circle* is printed by Butler & Tanner

'A boy's gotta hustle his book.'

Truman Capote, quoted in *Esquire*, 1971

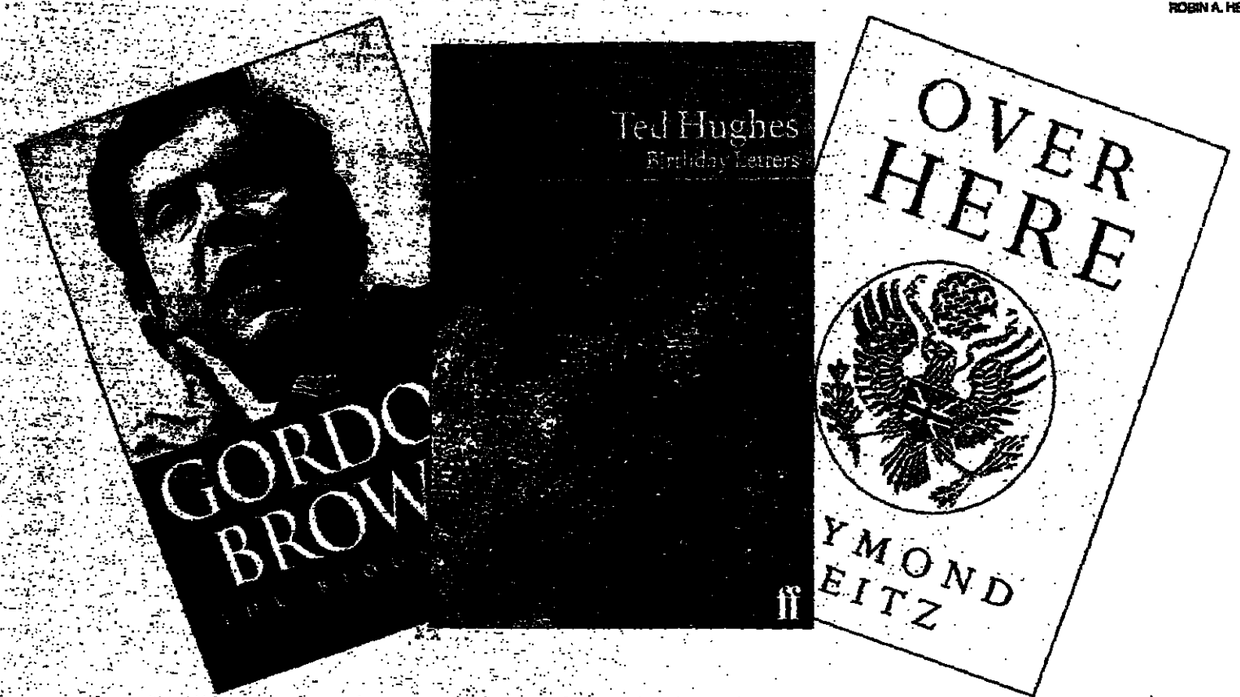
Waterstone's, Sponsors of Representative of the Year at The British Book Awards

W WATERSTONE'S READ ON

هكذا من الأصل

مكبر من الاصل

ROBIN A. HEAD



Making headlines recently were Paul Routledge's biography of Gordon Brown, Ted Hughes's *Birthday Letters* and Raymond Seitz's *Over Here*

This powerful survivor

When it comes to universal communication, you can't beat a book, says **Giles Gordon**

The most extraordinary thing about the book is that it has withstood the advent of such technological innovations as radio, television, cinema, the Internet and satellite.

It has survived mainly because its form and format are congenial and convenient. It can be read in the bath and in bed; in trains and in aircraft; in a chair or while walking. It can be read in your own time, at your own speed. What other form of universal communication offers so much?

It is not only the form, but also the content. Compared with making a television series or a film, a book is inexpensive to produce. That about 101,600 new titles (including new editions and imported books) were published here last year shows how many people are able to put their thoughts into print.

British books make news. Last month three books dominated the headlines: Paul Routledge's biography of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown; the memoirs of the former American Ambassador, Raymond Seitz, which contained accusations of government indiscretions with regard to the IRA; and a book of poems by Ted Hughes about life with his late wife, Sylvia Plath, which was instantly judged as important work of literature.

What was once a cottage industry has become big business, with conglomerates such as Random House, HarperCollins, Pan Macmillan and Penguin dominating the scene. In 1996 British publishers notched up £2.7 billion in sales, £1.5 billion being "adult consumer books" — those we borrow from our underfunded libraries and buy in bookshops.

> 'What was once a cottage industry is now big business'

The difficulty for British publishing today is to remain faithful to its Muse, to literature: not just to poetry, drama and "literary" fiction but to intelligent and well-written non-fiction as well — biography, history, politics, current affairs, criticism. The Achilles' heel is that so much trash is published and, in the short term, trash sells better than non-trash.

Publishers have always produced "popular" books to subsidise the intellectual and literary stuff. But these days it seems, not least to authors, that most of the trade's efforts go into promoting what is likely to sell anyway. The Nibbies, aping the Oscars and other such awards, celebrate the showbiz side of the trade — yet despite all this, literary authors and others who appeal to the serious reader probably have a better chance than ever. There are endless prizes, and most books of interest usually pick up one or more. A few fashionable authors are paid fortunes because their names attract buyers. Waterstone's shops are a glory to behold, the vast flagship store in Glasgow commanding personal appearances from the world's best writers.

Most authors are paid a pittance in return for the time it takes to produce finely crafted books. Certainly they earn less than they would for an equivalent level of expertise in other occupations. A recent survey of the 6,500 members of the Society of Authors revealed that 41 per cent received advances against royalties of less than £5,000; 13 per cent between £5,000 and £10,000; 11 per cent between £10,000 and £25,000; and 6 per cent more than £25,000. Most of the books in question would probably take a year to write.

When Andrew Neil became editor of *The Sunday Times*, he started a separate book section because he assumed that publishers would be inclined to buy advertising space. Why should they, when any self-regarding newspaper or magazine carries pages of book reviews?

These days there is an unhealthy obsession with bestseller lists: do people rush out to buy the top bestsellers to enable them to keep up with the Blairs (or Hagues), or do they use the lists to avoid buying what everyone else is supposedly buying?

The book trade has undoubtedly become more efficient than it was. It is reasonable, for instance, to expect to be able to order a book that is not in stock one day and to collect it from the bookshop the next. No shop, however large, can stock other than a tiny percentage of the hundreds of thousands of titles in print.

Are there too many books? Are they underedited, in that those who run publishing houses are more interested in turnover and profit than literary integrity? Are the books more shoddily produced, badly proofread and printed and bound in some hideous, cheap substance? Undoubtedly, yes; but quality does win out in the marketplace — as the production values of, say, Fourth Estate, Bloomsbury and HarperCollins's non-fiction lists attest.

Just follow your Ed

As an author whose thrillers automatically soar up the bestseller lists and attract Hollywood attention, Ken Follett might be expected to dismiss book editors as an interfering and unnecessary adjunct to the literary world.

Far from it. The first draft of his latest novel, featuring hippies, an earthquake and the FBI, is being examined by a half-dozen "editors" at his own invitation. He is so convinced of their value in publishing that he sponsored the Editor of the Year Award at last night's British Book Awards.

The people working on his new novel include two full-time editors for his London and New York publishers, a seismologist, an FBI-watcher and members of his family.

"Their advice is important and I always take note of it," Follett says. "They might point out explanatory sentences that need expanding, and characters that could be treated with more sympathy."

Follett became used to editors in his early career as an evening newspaper journalist. "You wouldn't get far if you objected to their changes," he smiles. When he became editorial director of Everest Books in the mid-1970s, he turned his own hand to editing while dealing with editors who were reading his first novels.

"I started off with a highly tolerant attitude to editors because of this background and recognised that complaining didn't do any good. I learnt to wait for 24 hours before looking at their comments again and found I would react more calmly.


Ken Follett seeks advice

"The most important aspect of working with editors is to draw them out and make them feel comfortable about telling me what is wrong. I don't want them to hold back and leave things unsaid that might then cause niggling doubts in my mind."

His success with such novels as *Eye of the Needle*, *The Pillars of the Earth* and *The Third Twin* makes it easier to handle editors' comments and gives him the confidence to know when — or not — to take their advice. He lists four qualities that make an award-winning editor: "A strong sense of story; a feeling for language, preferably similar to the author's; an eye for detail and a strong feeling for what the public likes."

Follett says literary editors would probably dismiss the fourth as "the last thing to worry about". He adds: "It's invaluable to be told, for example, that an incident intended to develop the favourable image of a character might upset the reader."

The two most important failings for an editor are, he thinks, arrogance and inarticulacy. "My worst experience was with the late Donald Fine, when he was my US publisher," Follett recalls. "He had handled *Eye of the Needle* quite skilfully but he in effect rewrote the sequel, *Triple*.

"I had to threaten legal action to stop him publishing his version. It was a matter of ego, which does overcome some editors."

Literary critics also find little favour with Follett. Early criticisms that facts were wrong in *Eye of the Needle* and that *The Man from St Petersburg* contained "clumsy inaccuracies in period detail" still rankle and he is likely to take more notice when readers write to him with a complaint.

Without a doubt, however, the advice that he takes most seriously comes from his editors, "the unsung but essential stars" of publishing.

TONY DAWE

Boys and girls come out to read

TIM WATERSTONE is in high spirits. Not only has he just started a chain of children's boutiques called Daisy and Tom, but he is also on the point of buying back, with EMI, the famous chain of bookshops that he created.

The first two Daisy and Tom shops opened last year, in Chelsea and Manchester, and Waterstone expects to open two more a year until there are about 14. He had the idea for them one Saturday when he and his wife went shopping for things for the children.

"She had to rush around between so many different shops to get the clothes, the toys, the books — it seemed ridiculous," he says. "I had also been thinking for some time that there must be better ways of selling children's books than we have seen so far in Britain — and the two ideas came together."

The resulting Daisy and Tom's — named after one of his daughters and the son of a partner in the business — are spacious, alluring stores. Inside the door in the Chelsea shop there is a working carousel, at the back a soda bar (with wine for the adults).

Everywhere there are temptingly arranged toys, games, clothes, shoes. There is also a very large books area with what is probably the biggest range of children's books available in Britain. Everything invites you to wander and browse — and the crowds have been pouring in.

Now the Waterstone's book chain is looming up in his life again. It passed to W.H. Smith after he sold it, but continued to be run as a separate company. Now Smith's is selling it off. Waterstone has backing for his part of the purchase from Advent, the venture capital group, and will share the ownership with EMI. Dillons, one of the other major bookshop chains, is already owned by EMI — so what, I asked Waterstone, will happen to that?


High spirits: Waterstone

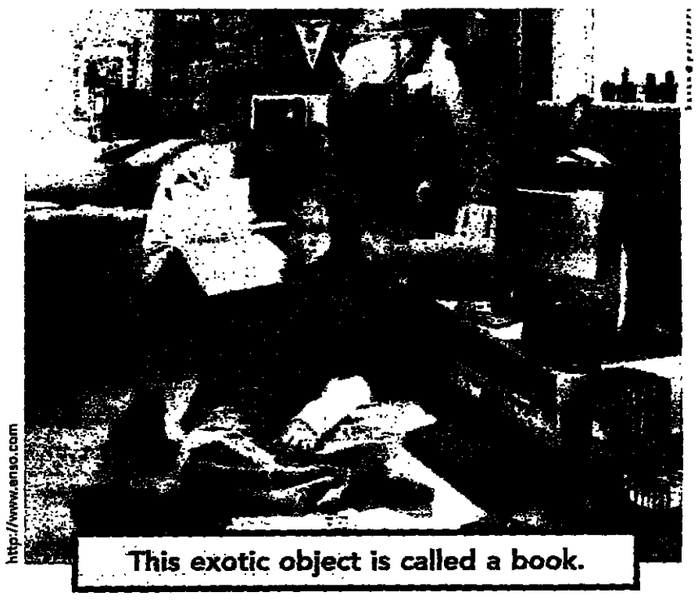
"The two chains will be amalgamated. A few shops may continue trading under the name Dillons, but the Waterstone's name will take precedence and the company will be managed in Waterstone's style," he says. "Essentially it doesn't need change. It has a very successful superstore in Glasgow now, and that probably points the way ahead for us — not any change of atmosphere or policy in the shops."

Will many Dillons bookshops have to close? "No. Every time you close a bookshop you lose business," he says.

And what about the threat from American book chains in Britain? "We have one here already, Borders, and it is certainly going to grow." So will there be a discount war?

"Not, I think, with Borders — they are not great discounters." "But if Barnes and Noble move in?" "That may be a different story. We don't believe in heavy discounting. But we know how to fight them if we have to."

DERWENT MAY


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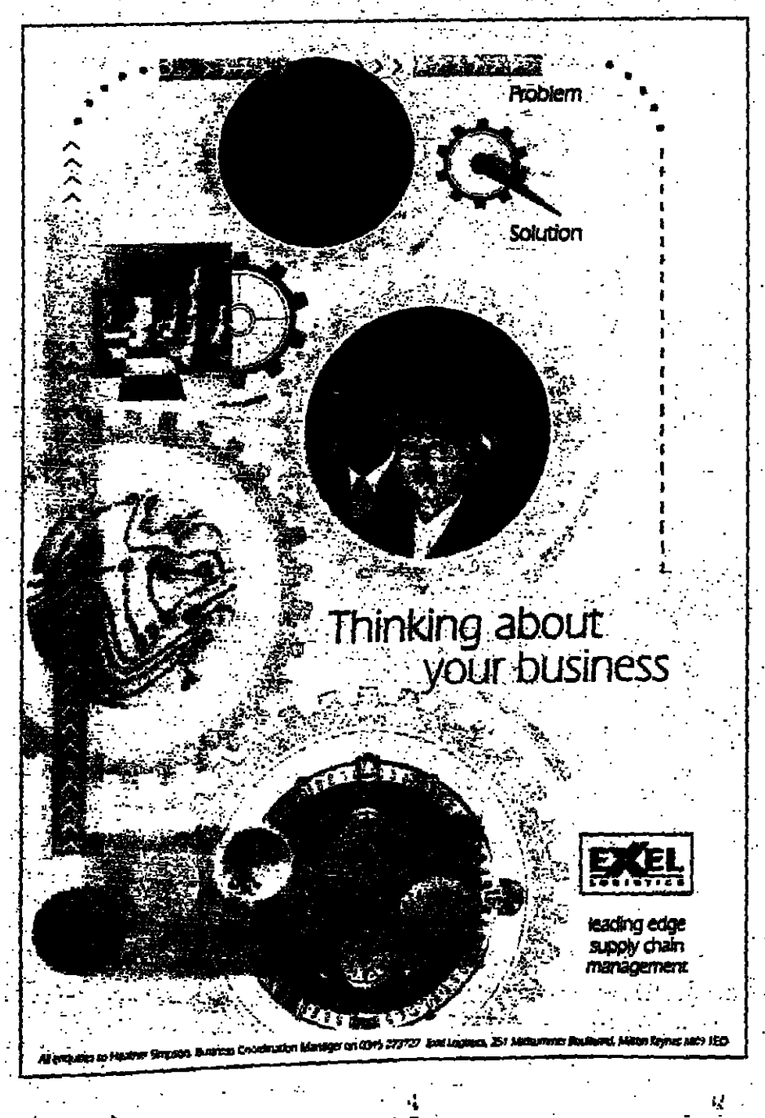
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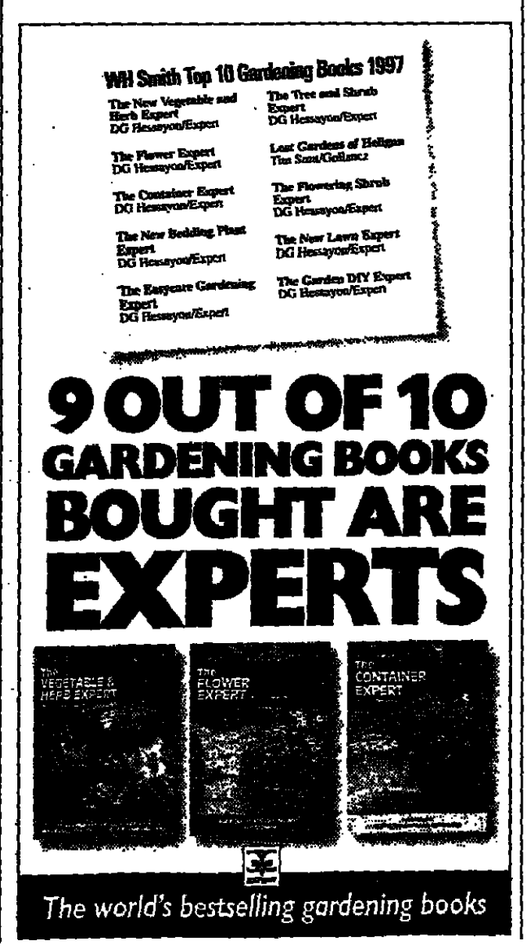
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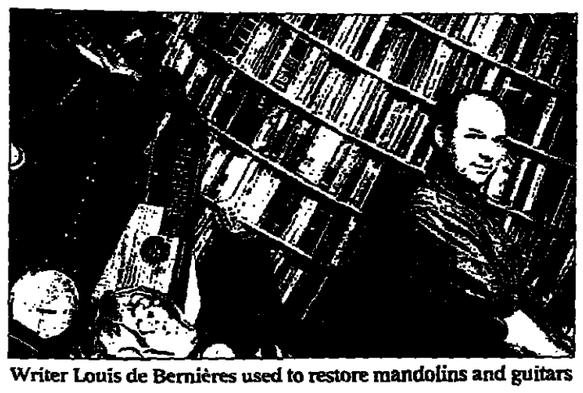
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AUTHOR OF THE YEAR



Writer Louis de Bernières used to restore mandolins and guitars

A slow-burn success

THERE must have been times when his parents despaired of Louis de Bernières. For example, when he decided that he could no longer stomach Army life and dropped out of the 2nd Queen's Dragoon Guards, they had to repay his boarding school fees, since his scholarship had been funded by the Army.

Not that they told him until years later. But as they watched their son pursue a hippy lifestyle and countless odd jobs, they must surely have wondered if he'd ever grow up.

Now, some 20 year later, de Bernières is a success. Last month alone, more than 20,000 copies of the paperback edition of his novel, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, have been sold — and in the previous 30 months, 350,000 copies. There have been no fewer than 25 reprints.

When it was first published in spring 1994, *Captain Corelli* — the author's fourth novel — drew praise from all quarters. The previous year he had been named as one of "The Best of Young British Novelists". When not writing, he restored elderly guitars and mandolins to their former glory. That summer, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* was a slow burner: a classic case of word-of-mouth success.

As de Bernières writes his next opus — it will be set in Turkey — at his usual leisurely pace, he can rest assured that if his parents should want those school fees repaying, he will not be short of the money. As A.S. Byatt noted, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* is a novel "so good that it will last".

INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLER OF THE YEAR

Fred's family affair

BOOKSELLING is in the blood for Fred Hanna, winner of the Independent Bookseller of the Year prize, *Amanda Loose writes*. His family has owned the Fred Hanna Bookshop in Nassau Street, Dublin, for three generations. Mr Hanna's daughter Judy has been working at the shop for 14 years, his son Frederick for four.

Mr Hanna has been running the shop, which stocks more than 100,000 titles, since his father retired 20 years ago. But his interest in bookselling stems from his schooldays.

"I used to go to antiquarian book sales with my father during school holidays, and got hooked. My grandfather, Fred, worked in the shop until 1910 when the owner, William Magee, died. On his deathbed he asked my grandfather if he could continue with the shop, which became the Fred Hanna."

Mr Hanna has seen many changes since he started out: "The introduction of large multinational booksellers has made we independents brighten up our shops and bring in a greater variety of stock. It is very difficult for the smaller shops not to be squeezed out. But we have the knowledge and a rapport with regular customers, and books cannot just be merchandised like goods in supermarkets. We get orders on the Internet from a Pacific island which has no bookshop."

David Whitaker assesses the current state of the publishing industry

Asia crisis hits exports

How is British publishing doing? Not too well really. Of the top six publishers, one is German, one American, one Canadian, one Dutch/English (but reckoned to be Dutch-controlled) and only two are British. And these six dominate the market. How is publishing in Britain doing? Not too badly really. It seems to be holding its own despite the vagaries of the market and grave underfunding in the education and library sectors.

It is certainly publishing a lot of books: more than 100,000 new titles last year, which was 200 in the morning and 200 in the afternoon of every working day. And there were already more than half a million others available from Britain's 25,000 publishers. Why so many publishers? Because every vicar who writes a history of his parish church is a publisher. Why so many books? Because there are books on every aspect of human life, from antenatal care and architecture to Zoroastrianism and zoology. Books remain the most important record of our society and its achievements. Stores sell the most copies, but the sciences account for the great mass of titles.

Numbers are further swelled because English is the *lingua franca* of the modern world. Books looking for a world market now tend to be published in English. Even French publishers are doing it. And as Europe is the world's second-largest English language market, all important American publishers have London offices. Many have active British publishing programmes, but also offer suitable American titles. These all go to inflate the so-called "British" title totals.

Somehow the trade absorbs this huge offering, although one does wonder how many copies of each title are sold. Home turnover is reckoned to be about £3 billion at retail prices. For all its importance, the book business is tiny in money terms. About £2 billion of that total is through shops. The W.H. Smith, Waterstone's and Dillons chains have about 40 per cent of the market. W.H. Smith has had a bad ten years but seems to be finding its focus again. It owns Waterstone's but plans to demerge it. Then Waterstone's is expected to merge with the next biggest chain, Dillons. The American giant, Borders, has bought the Books Etc chain and plans to greatly enlarge it. Menzies has decided to close down its shops.



Popular high street retail chain stores have cornered 40 per cent of the book market

Before 1995, publishers fixed the prices at which their books could be sold. This gave them a grip on retailers' margins. The boot is now on the other foot. Publishers have put up book prices to meet booksellers' demands for better terms, but some of the extra has been taken out of what publishers used to think was their slice of the cake.

> 'There are books on every aspect of human life'

The unhappiest publishers at the moment are those with the greatest exposure to world markets. Exports make up about one third of the total business. These were doing rather well until the strength of sterling began to undermine them. Publishers of heavily illustrated books need a world market to share the high origination costs. The export content of their turnover can be as high as 80 per cent. Both Dorling Kindersley and the smaller Quarto have issued profits warnings. The Asian meltdown is also very bad news as one fifth of exports went to the Asia-Pacific area.

Other blackspots are school and library book funds. The situation in schools is particularly sad. It is accepted that there is a correlation between textbook provision and pupils' academic achievement. A 1995 survey showed that schools all over the country were finding it difficult to afford even key texts for the national curriculum. In 1996-7 there was a further drop in spending. There is no prospect yet of all schools being able to have these key texts.

The public library market is also in uncertain health. The number of titles bought for each 1,000 members of the population was 241 in 1985-6 but only 200 in 1995-6. Many libraries are being closed because local councils decline to fund them. Oxfordshire wants to close ten next year and is debating cutting £900,000 from its book fund. There are bright spots in Essex and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes recently opened one of the best equipped libraries in Europe.

And what of the electronic future? Publishers of academic journals feel under threat as academics threaten to publish their own journals; but book publishers are more relaxed.

And what about the Internet as a new marketplace? Amazon, the great US Internet bookshop, is becoming a force to be reckoned with. Customers browse on the Web and are offered access to hundreds of thousands of choices and, as ever, range is what sells. But there is a happy irony in the discovery that Amazon, one of the latest developments of the new electronic world, is turning out to be one of the world's biggest sellers of older titles: it is already one of Penguin's most important customers for its backlist.

PUBLISHER

Woman of many words

WHEN Gail Rebuck became chairman and chief executive of Random House in 1991, she was hailed as "the most powerful figure in British publishing". This time last year, Random House bought all the general publishing houses that had been assembled under the wing of another conglomerate, Reed International. Rebuck now has 22 imprints under her command, among them half of Britain's great publishing names including Chatto & Windus, Heinemann, Jonathan Cape, Secker & Warburg and Hutchinson.

I asked the tall, striking 46-year-old the question to which everybody in the book world would like an answer: With all those imprints under one roof, is it possible for each to keep a distinctive identity?

"Absolutely! What would be the point of having them, otherwise?" she says. "Most have their own publisher, and every one of those publishers has his or her own personality and his or her own taste. We are big, but we keep small at the same time."

How did she think she had done in 1997? "Well, I have put the company on a stable footing and made us profitable without any loss of creativity. We have absorbed the Reed imprints and kept two thirds of their employees, with most of the others taking voluntary redundancy.

"For 1998 we have novels by Ian McEwan, Toni Morrison and Annie Tyler, short stories by Martin Amis and Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*."

DERWENT MAY



Gail Rebuck

BRITISH BOOK AWARDS

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We are all lottery junkies now

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

Isn't hypocrisy fun? In Labour circles it's been Purify the Lottery week. Suddenly politicians have gone all pious about the "sort of people" who can only monster raving bingo. In particular, a gang of gambling-industry bruisers called GTech is in the firing line. For one thing, they're Americans. For another, they tried to nobble our saintly entrepreneur Richard Branson.

Disgraceful! Poor Mr Branson was apparently so shocked that he had to retire to the lavatory to make notes. Now a strident swell of opinion recommends rebooting GTech from Camelot, the consortium that runs the lottery.

Never mind that GTech invented the goose that laid the golden egg: the software that turns a million Saturday morning squiggles in supermarkets and newsagents into billions of pounds of pocket-money for HM Government. Never mind that the golden egg is now used to pay for vital items of national expenditure — health, education, culture, sport.

Never mind that the same politicians with "worries" about GTech desperately need lottery revenue, since they have shamefully flunked the task of persuading British people to part with enough taxes to pay for that vital national expenditure. Never mind all that. It's Purify the Lottery week. The sackcloth has been laid out. The sacrificial lambs — lottery regulator Peter Davis and GTech's "Mr Very Big", Guy Snowden — have been led to slaughter, or at least to well-upholstered resignations. It's a ludicrous, topsy-turvy spectacle, and it could end in disaster.

Don't get me wrong. I hate the lottery with every fibre of my flabby frame. "We created this massive raffle, and thought we could control it. Instead, it is controlling us, cracking the veneer of civilised discourse and fair play, exposing unsavoury streaks." That is what I wrote three years ago, when the lottery was still a fêted novelty. I affix brass knobs to every word today.

I hate the fact that the lottery is a regressive tax in all but name, screwing the disadvantaged with false hope. I detest the order of priorities which dictated that millions were awarded to nobs — Covent Garden, the Churchill family — before a penny was awarded to charity. Even today, awards to charity only amount to £680 million, compared to £827 million for "heritage" and a staggering £1.2 billion for "millennium projects" in various shades of unnecessity.

I abhor the manner in which a craven BBC was suckered into paying Camelot millions for the "honour" of giving the lottery a free advertisement each Saturday on primetime TV. I am appalled at the vast squandering of lottery money on "feasibility studies" (translation: millions into the pockets of shadowy consultants) that often lead to nothing. I am disgusted at how little of this vast windfall has been used to put the arts into school classrooms.

And I am shocked at the blatant inequality of the lottery awards system. You don't have to live in Luton to feel angry when you read that the people of London have had 700 times more lottery money spent on them, per head, than the people of Bedfordshire.

So, yes, I react to the word "lottery" rather as the saintly Mr Branson reacts to an improper suggestion from a podgy American. I retreat to a small room and make furious jottings. In my case, it's called journalism.

But do I think it would be a good idea to start unravelling Camelot at this stage in pursuit of some belated ethical perfection? Don't be daft. The lottery is now woven so tightly into our national fabric — economic, cultural, social, political — that we can't live without it.

Some years ago Lord Gowrie called people in the arts "subsidy junkies". Ah, happy days. Today we are all lottery junkies.

And no wonder. In three years the lottery has distributed £4.58 billion, including more than a billion to the arts. It is the crutch supporting our performing institutions as they totter onwards. Kick it away and our culture would crumple. And not just our culture. Don't forget that lottery money is also about to bankroll showcase schemes in health and education.

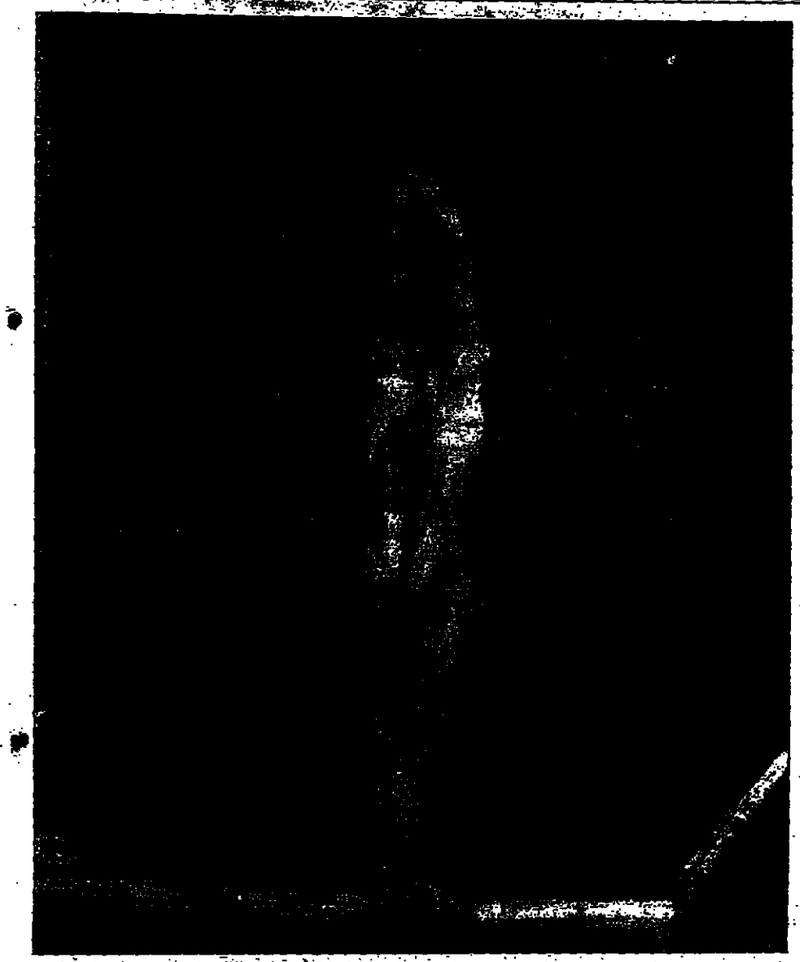
So the notion that Britain can suddenly develop retrospective moral scruples about the lottery is absurd. Three years ago we struck a Faustian pact with some hard-nosed businessmen who said that they could devise a blissfully troublefree way of pouring billions into "good causes". We played the Rake; the lottery was Progress. We wanted Valhallas; GTech delivered the Rhinegold.

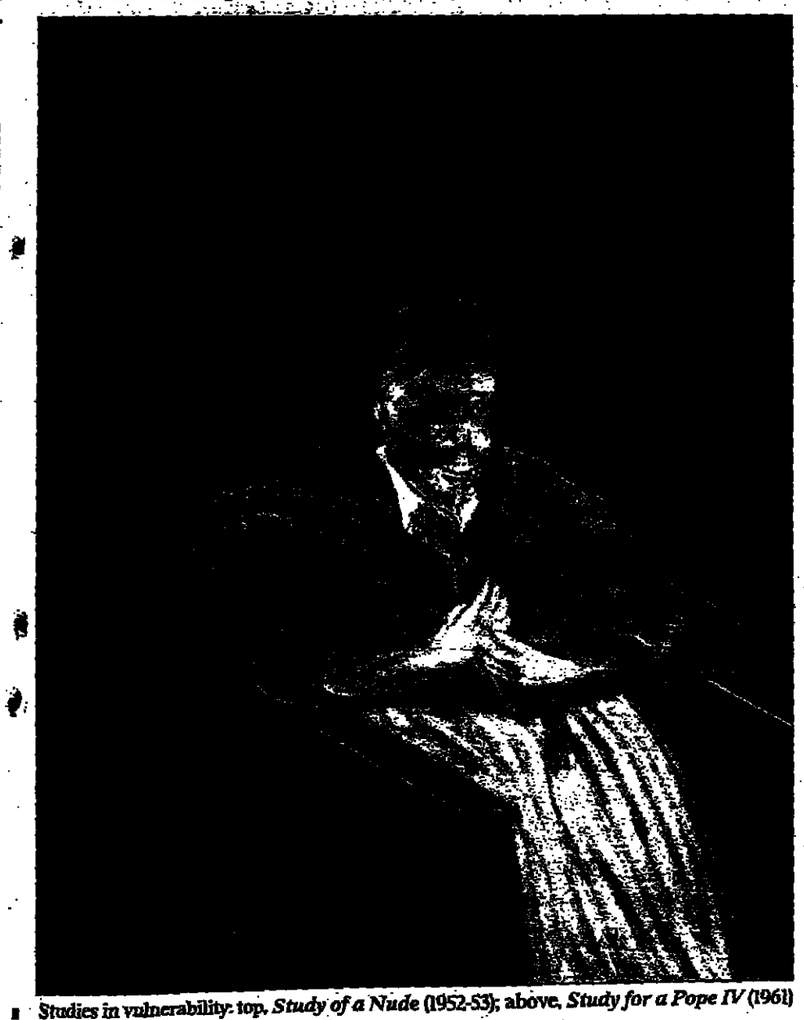
Even a small falling-off in lottery proceeds now would have dire consequences. This week Sir Simon Rattle told *The Times* that he feared he was seeing "the end of subsidy" in the arts. He's not the only one. But if subsidy ceases, what else is there? We don't give the tax breaks to trigger the private patronage that keeps the arts alive in America. Nor are we educating our children to support the arts through the box office.

In its early days the lottery was customarily described as "the icing on the cake". Very soon it will be the cake, the whole cake and nothing but the cake. Our Culture Secretary may be tempted to huff and puff over "the GTech crisis" for a few days, if only to appease the chippy Gerald Kaufman tendency in his own party. Fine. But after that he should do precisely nothing. Just for once, masterly inactivity will do the arts some good.

GALLERIES: Richard Cork on 40 years of work by Francis Bacon at the Hayward

Diving deep into darkness





Studies in vulnerability: top, *Study of a Nude* (1952-53); above, *Study for a Pope IV* (1961)

In the smallest painting at the Hayward Gallery's Francis Bacon exhibition, a naked man prepares to dive. His pallid arms, raised taut above his head, look like broken chalk-marks smudged on a blackboard. On every side a shadowed immensity underscores his isolation, and the cage-like structure surrounding the pool makes it seem ominous rather than inviting. But the figure balanced so precipitously on the water's edge retains his poise, and seems determined to plunge into the darkness.

Although the man is unknown, he could well be seen as the artist himself. For Bacon thrived on risk-taking. The human body remains at the centre of this enterprise, just as it does in his painting of the lone swimmer. But the Hayward survey, expertly curated by David Sylvester, discloses just how compelling Bacon's vision of the figure remained throughout the show's 40-year span.

At first, in the earliest painting on view, the form standing on a rough patch of grass defies identification. Previously unexhibited, the picture is close to the right-hand panel of the Tate's 1944 triptych, *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*. The ear attached to the head in the newly discovered painting is human enough. But the gaping mouth, with its voracious blackness inside, belongs to a predator. The distended neck attached to the humped, stunted trunk bears no resemblance to man or woman. It is a hybrid creature, shaped partly by Bacon's reaction to the barbarity of war. Bacon leaves the image ambiguous, but anger, grief and disgust all conspire to make the monster yell.

After these excoriating images of suffering in a godless universe, he calmed down for a while. By the late 1940s he was able, with the aid of photographs culled from a promiscuous variety of sources, to paint a recognisably human nude. The pale, heavily built body moving through a parted curtain is an object of desire. Bacon applies the paint sparingly, often allowing expanses of bare canvas to show through and emphasise the body's provocative nakedness. He has turned away, and the darkness gives his incommunicative back a melancholy, thwarted air.

Bacon had a horror of story-telling. He deliberately withheld information, preferring to tantalise if it enabled him to avoid narrative complications. That is why his paintings of the early 1950s, including the solitary diver, are handled with such economy. In the superb *Study for Nude*, a crouching figure is brushed in with the utmost deftness. The broken marks evoke his fleshy form and at the same time remain patches of pigment. A few audacious vertical sweeps of the brush summarise the folds of a curtain behind, but that is all. Bacon knows precisely when to stop, so that understatement becomes eloquent.

Not all the paintings from this period command the same mastery. The 1951 *Portrait of Lucian Freud* is surprisingly slapdash, and utterly fails to bear a persuasive resemblance to his subject. Maybe Bacon was aware of this weakness, for he returned to *Study for Figure II* and altered it two years later. Hence, presumably, the contrast between the offhand treatment of the lower half and the concentrated intensity above, where a densely worked face opens in a scream nobody else can hear.

The authority of those parted lips shows how much fascination Bacon felt for the human mouth. It snarls at us again in his curiously reptilian self-portrait of 1956, where he sits hump-backed on a thinly outlined bed in a room otherwise enveloped by blackness. The only Pope included here smiles rather than howls, but his face is more like a skull than the well-fed Pontiff who obsessed Bacon in the Velazquez portrait. The top teeth predominate this time, exposed like a horse in the stables he frequented during his Irish boyhood. There he had his first sexual experiences with the grooms, and the protracted series of Pope portraits are also bound up with Bacon's fiercely ambivalent feelings about his horse-trainer father.

Although most of his paintings centre exclusively on the male nude, he did produce some formidable images of women in the 1960s. By that time his palette had lightened, allowing him to reveal hitherto suppressed talents as an unbridled colourist. A strident combination of purple and crimson animates the 1963 painting of his friend Henrietta Moraes. But there is nothing festive about her body. Sprawled on a bed with splayed legs, she seems pinioned to the mattress by a hypodermic syringe. It recalls the equally unexpected presence of a safety-pin on the curtains parted by the naked man in 1949. Now, however, the body is handled with such brusque sweeps of the brush that it seems mottled and on the verge of decomposition.

Mortality was bound up in Bacon's response to human bodies. Even at their most vital, they seem dogged by the prospect of dissolution. In the central canvas of his great 1964 triptych, *Three Figures in a Room*, the nude on the couch is so convulsive that it threatens to wriggle off and fall in an amorphous heap.

Eventually, in 1973, his preoccupation with death led him to paint an openly elegiac triptych. His lover, George Dyer, had committed suicide in a Paris hotel on the eve of Bacon's retrospective at the Grand Palais. In three harrowing panels, the tragedy is re-enacted. On the right, a man throws up into a sink. On the left, he sits slumped on the lavatory, his skin already turning into a glutinous, near-phosphorescent mass. Bacon stiffens these molten images by painting, with unusual firmness, the walls flanking both the tormented bodies. And in the central panel, below a lightbulb as naked as Dyer himself, the doomed man's head appears in profile. He appears to be hovering, caught between an obstinate last surge of vitality and the engulfing shadow of a creature whose wings and beak spill out beyond the door-frame.

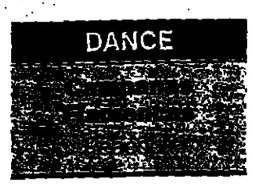
This grand lamentation hangs on the final wall of the most haunting room in the show. Bacon's preoccupation with human vulnerability is dramatised wherever you look. Painting the Dyer suicide pictures must have been, for Bacon, a cathartic experience. At any rate, the final room is far quieter. The paintings of his old age have often been faulted for lacking the convoluted, high-voltage dynamism of his earlier work, but I found the stillness of his late self-portrait triptych very moving.

The hands, limbs and feet in all three panels look perfunctory, suggesting that Bacon was no longer so concerned with the whole body. His faces, however, are explored with the utmost probing gravity. They appear to be caught in the process of changing, from palpable fleshiness to the gaunt armature of skulls. Bones protrude in unexpected places. Portions of cheek and forehead evaporate into blood-flecked spray. But Bacon, seated alone on a swivel chair in each panel, accepts the metamorphosis without a struggle. He is still as resolute as the diver had been several decades before, bracing himself for the descent into the void.

● Francis Bacon: The Human Body *is at the Hayward Gallery (0171-928 3144) until April 5*

Feet going like the clappers

DANCE



Audiences can't get enough of flamenco, and so here is yet another new bunch of six dancers, four singers and four guitarists. Campanas Flamencas bears the signature of Francisco Sanchez, the man who years ago brought us the sensational Cumbre Flamenca. Like that company, Campanas Flamencas offers more or less straightforward flamenco, although the evening's first half takes care to dramatise each number with scenic effects and narrative gestures. The opening, overlong ensemble *Deblaluna (The Moon Goddess Tale)* presents various characters against the night sky, but I wasn't up to understanding much. Next time let us have song translations in the printed programme, please.

The rest of the evening is mostly devoted to solo dancing, the basis of flamenco. I am allergic to child-performers coltishly aping adults, so the inclusion of 11-year-old Niño de los Reyes strikes me as a cutesy gimmick. By contrast his brother Isaac, at 17, is adult and handsome enough to hold his own. Elegant in a cropped jacket and tilted hat for his *siguiriya*, he unleashes a blur of beaten steps in a compact with some invisible demon.

Joaquin Grilo, La Tati and Milagros Mengibar are mature, wonderfully individualistic performers who move so vividly they seem to carve their infinitely subtle rhythms into solid shapes. Grilo interpolates furious spasms of foot percussion in smoothly lyrical passages. La Tati reminds us that flamenco for women is not necessarily pretty. She gives her space a savage, earthy dressing down, hips jutting, splayed legs chuff-chuffing across the stage. The long fantail of her dress becomes a frothy animal.

La Tati is the streetwise, exuberant foil to Mengibar's harmonious, sleek containment. Refined, imaginative and unusual, Mengibar's *romera* is the highlight of the evening. She focuses on the upper body, in the old manner of female flamenco, arms snaking, hands embroidering. She paces quietly, then halts to tap out delicate, limpid sentences or to spiral upwards.

Campanas are the church bells of Spain, but at the Peacock they are to be heard only in the mind, as a symbol perhaps of timeless tradition. Definitely not in the mind are the auditorium's excited roars. The British, reserved? Never.

NADINE MEISNER

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THE TIMES AIR FRANCE TOKEN 11

All travel on European flights must be completed between March 2-August 20, 1998. No travel permitted between April 1-19, 1998. European flights will incur a £30 return supplement for departures after March 31, 1998. Minimum stay Saturday night, maximum stay one month.

Abbreviations: CDG (Charles de Gaulle), LHR (London Heathrow), MAN (Manchester), SOU (Southampton), BHX (Birmingham), GLA (Glasgow), EDI (Edinburgh), NCL (Newcastle). Full terms and conditions appeared on Monday Jan 26 and Friday Jan 30, 1998.

CHANGING TIMES

Woman on the edge of a breakthrough

Alan Jackson meets Ani DiFranco, rock's unlikeliest superstar, while (below) **David Sinclair** gives her new album top marks



Easy lies the head that wears the crown: after years as an alternative heroine, Ani DiFranco is now ready to tackle Alanis and the gang head-on

The success last autumn of the song *Bitch*, and the resultant media coverage accorded its writer-singer Meredith Brooks, raised the depressing prospect that the post-Alanis Morissette landscape of American pop would, increasingly, be peopled by self-congratulatory young women with guitars penning artful, sub-Alanis lyrics about the hell that is PMT. And to cap it all, I thought, she would probably be rewarded with a Grammy.

Last week, leafing through the programme for the American record industry's 40th annual awards show, to be held in New York on the 25th of this month, I found my prejudice confirmed: thanks to that irritating track, Brooks is one of five contenders for the Best Female Rock Vocal Performance statuette. A closer reading of the other nominations cheered me, though. One, Abra Moore, is as yet unknown in this country, but the others — the veteran Patti Smith, superwaif Fiona Apple and Ani (pronounced Ah-nee) DiFranco — each enjoy international critical acclaim and, in this country, small but devoted followings. All four deserve to be celebrated, but it is DiFranco's inclusion in the shortlist (courtesy of *Shy*, a track from her last album) which represents the greatest achievement and, hence, merits particular attention. She alone has no major label backing, operating instead as a lone maverick in a largely corporate industry.

Brought up in the upstate New York town of Buffalo, she describes what might otherwise have been a comfortable, middle-class family situation as having disintegrated before her teenage eyes — there was her parents' unexpected experience of unemployment, then their divorce. A precocious child left to amuse herself for large tracts of time, she had taken up the guitar while still in junior school and, in the aftermath of their parting, decided not to live with either but to support her 15-year-old self and complete her education via after-school jobs as, variously, a waitress and a housepainter. Concurrently, she was developing her compositional and playing skills with appearances in clubs and bars.

By 1990, at the age of 20, she was confident enough to make a no-frills, low-tech first album, heavily feminist in inspiration, and to distribute it herself under the company name Righteous Babe Records. It happened more by accident than design: "Young women would make copies of copies and send them to their sisters or their friends, some of whom would then make their own copies and send them on to other sisters, other friends," she says.

> Some fans scream, "I love you", but they have no respect for me

Such a process may not have generated financial profit in the short term, but it did allow DiFranco to build an intensely loyal — if sometimes possessive — fanbase. "People wrote in to me saying, 'Can you come and play here?' So, for a couple of hundred bucks, I would. In this initially haphazard way, I began to tour the whole northeast of the States."

In time, she relocated to Manhattan where her name and music (struggling for a suitable description for it, critics frequently settled for the clumsy but, at least, highly specific indie-folk-punk) quickly came to the attention of several influential figures on the east coast singer-songwriter circuit, among them Suzanne Vega, who became an early champion of DiFranco's work.

Over the course of eight further self-released LPs, interest in DiFranco's quirky, highly original and often in-your-face songs has spread steadily beyond the women-only and folk constituencies. As a result, she admits, she has felt the occasional backlash. "It's like I'm not a human being to some fans," she says. "They scream 'I love you', but they have no respect for me."

The problem arises from a long-standing perception that she is a lesbian who has not properly declared herself — a perception that, as the rock monthly *Q* has noted, has left her with an image as "a big-mouthed, crazy-haired, tattooed dyke with, probably, piercings in the kind of places most of us would prefer not to think about".

DiFranco's own favoured term for her orientation is "whatever" but, when pushed, will define herself as bisexual. That she has talked publicly of her current happiness in a relationship with a male partner has caused some consternation in the female ranks, however. And there have been grumblings too about her gradual transition from acoustic folk to a more rock'n'roll sound — placing her in a situation with which Bob Dylan, with whom she has recently toured, can doubtless sympathise. Resignedly, DiFranco says: "Women who have been around my work since the beginning and who have invested a lot in it emotionally feel they have a claim on me, and that everything I do now is suspect. If I so much as step out on stage in a dress, they're infuriated."

Happily, such quibbling has been offset by a growing chorus of praise, not just for her idiosyncratic musicianship but for her business sense. Prince, who famously cast himself as a slave during his final, acrimonious months with Warner Bros, is a particular admirer of DiFranco, label-owner, and understandably so. Her independent status and the fact that she also fulfils most background functions on her albums allows her to pocket about 50 per cent of the profits from each purchase — a level of return guaranteed to leave other artists slack-jawed with envy (particularly when they absorb the fact that her last release, *Dilate*, has sold 250,000 copies in America). Concert appearances — she makes about 200 a year — are similarly lucrative, with a recent survey ranking her No 31 in the list of the country's top-grossing live artists.

The coffers of Righteous Babe are about to benefit further from the release on Monday of DiFranco's tenth and most accessible album to date, *Little Plastic Castle*. Ironically for someone who has so much recorded output behind her, it arrives just at the time that mainstream America has awoken to her stealthily achieved commercial clout. Glossy music-and-lifestyle magazines such as *Spin* and *Rolling Stone* have featured her extensively in recent editions, the former hailing her "Rock's most unlikely superstar".

It all means that winning that Grammy is largely immaterial. The widespread feeling is that she will be back with many more nominations next year, and in years to come.

● *Ani DiFranco will play a one-off British date at the Forum, London NW5 (0171-284 2200) on Feb 21.*

Sister Ani will carry the banner

POP ALBUMS

ANI DIFRANCO
Little Plastic Castle
(Righteous Babe/Cooking Vinyl COOK 140 £12.99)
A POWERFUL presence for many years on the American fringe, Ani DiFranco is rapidly turning into a mainstream star, whether she likes it or not. While she obviously has no taste for becoming involved with the heavy hitters of the music industry on a business level, musically she is now beginning to sound more than a match for the most successful singer-songwriters of the 1990s: Tori Amos, Jewel, Courtney Love and even, whisper it, Alanis Morissette.

A forceful, angry, affectionate, bitter and funny collection of songs, *Little Plastic Castle* reflects the many facets of this extraordinary woman's personality. "Love is a piano dropped from a four-storey window/And you were in the wrong place at the wrong time," she sings on *Two Little Girls*, neatly summing up a world-view that is as secretly romantic as it is overtly cynical and sometimes despairing.

Although the songs are primarily driven by DiFranco's ferociously clipped acoustic guitar playing, many arrangements, such as the high-life horn section on the title track, the mysterious big-guitar twang of *Deep Dish* and the sensual, trumpet-decorated groove of *Pulse* make this an even more rounded and accessible collection than her last album, *Dilate*, which was itself something of a commercial breakthrough.

Whether DiFranco continues to shun the "big time" or not, this music is simply too strong and bright and true to remain a minority taste for very much longer.

SOFA SURFERS
Transit
(Klein/MCA MCD 70355 £13.99)
SO MANY dance acts are now integrating "real" instruments with new technology that it is hardly noteworthy any more. What is remarkable is the way in which certain instrumental acts are now choosing to reach back to a pre-rock'n'roll era for the raw materials needed to realise their futurist visions.

Offering plenty of dark, trip hop beats, dub reggae textures and rapid-fire bursts of drum'n'bass, Austrian electronica group Sofa Surfers really take off when tracks such as *The Plan* and *Daktari* lock on to the "car-chase" music of the 1960s and 1970s. Elsewhere, the nouveau-jazz stylings of *Monoscopolis* and *Flat* offer a pleasantly reassuring frisson of familiarity within a fiercely modern context.

PEARL JAM
Yield
(Epic 489305 2 £14.49)
IT IS surely every group's nightmare to be too closely associated with an era that has become dated and discredited. One thinks of Duran Duran and the new romantic fad, the Farm and the "baggy" scene, Pearl Jam and grunge. Once an act is caught in this sticky position, it is virtually impossible for it to get a fair hearing no matter what its new record actually sounds like.

Pearl Jam have never given up trying to say something meaningful while avoiding the obvious heavy rock clichés, and *Yield*, their fifth album, is fine of its kind. But there is nothing sufficiently inspired to distract attention from the stiff rhythms, the generic overloaded guitar sound and singer Eddie Vedder's strangulated madman yell, a superannuated musical vocabulary that invests *Yield* with about as much contemporary relevance as a Deep Purple album.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Ageless blues

JAZZ ALBUMS

MOSE ALLISON
Gimcracks and Gewgaws
(Blue Note 7243 8 23211 2 5)
JUST embarked on his eighth decade, the Mississippi-born songwriter Mose Allison shows no sign of letting up. His wit remains as acerbic, his piano playing as jauntily idiosyncratic, his outlook on life — and occasionally death — as unflinchingly honest as ever.

Fourteen songs make up this latest album, dealing with everything from the cosmic cycles of life and musings on mortality to the oddness of "Mose" as a first name, from tender meditation on his grandmother's life to a delightful retake, 40 years on, of one of his most famous songs, *Young Man Blues*.

Subtly propelled by the hair-trigger sensitivity of drummer Paul Motian and ornamented with either the succinct tenor of Mark Shim or the neat guitar of Russell Malone, *Gimcracks and Gewgaws* is another consistently entertaining yet sapient album in a career positively littered with them.

BESSIE SMITH
The Essential Bessie Smith
(Columbia/Legacy 487398 2)
ALTHOUGH justly championed as the Empress of the Blues, Bessie Smith — as she amply demonstrates on these 36 tracks culled from recordings made between 1923 and 1933 — was just as adept a singer of other forms: vaudeville songs, rhythmic spirituals, show tunes and so on.

Whether she's applying her strident, deeply affecting contralto to songs hymning the talents of lovers or musicians, protesting at ill treatment, or pleading for understanding from the law — in one song actually demanding to be sent to the electric chair — her dignity and integrity, not to mention her sheer brio, imbue everything she sings with passionate conviction.

Featuring a stellar selection of accompanists, including Louis Armstrong, James P. Johnson and bands led by the likes of Fletcher Henderson and Buck Washington, these mid-price CDs are a great introduction to an artist of seminal importance to both blues and jazz.

CHRIS PARKER

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	Urban Hymns	Verve (Hut)
2	(3)	Life Thru a Lens	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3	(2)	All Saints	All Saints (London)
4	(9)	Titanic OST	James Horner (Sony Classical)
5	(4)	Postcards from Heaven	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
6	(–)	Unfinished Monkey Business	Ian Brown (Polydor)
7	(5)	OK Computer	Radiohead (Parlophone)
8	(7)	Let's Talk About Love	Celine Dion (Epic)
9	(6)	Truly	Lionel Ritchie (Motown/Polygram TV)
10	(8)	Decksandrums	Propellerheads (Wall of Sound)

Copyright CIN — ● Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

PROPELLERHEADS
DECKSANDRUMSANDROCKANDROLL
'A PURE PLEASURE' MELODY MAKER
'A GENUINE DEFINING MOMENT ON 1998'S MUSICAL MAP' 4/5, Q MAGAZINE
'A PROPULSIVE CLASSIC' GQ
'SIMPLY A BLINDING ALBUM' JOCKEY SLUT ALBUM OF THE MONTH
'A BRILLIANT DANCEFLOOR ALBUM' THE TIMES
'A TOP NOTCH ALBUM' THE GUARDIAN
'A BLISTERING DISCO CLASSIC... ACE' LOADED ALBUM OF THE MONTH
'IRRESISTIBLY DANCEADELIC... BRILLIANTLY, TERRIFYINGLY, PEERLESSLY BLOOMING MAGIC' NME
'A LOVINGLY-MADE DISCO DELIGHT' THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY
'A CROSSOVER CLASSIC' ARENA
'A WIRED STEALTH BOMBER OF AN ALBUM' FHM
'SMITHOTRIPHOPBEBOPRAVEJAZZBEATCLASSYBASSYBONDBUSTING LP' DJ MAGAZINE
10/10 MIXMAG ALBUM OF MONTH
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LIVE GIGS

Tinkering with the chemistry

PRIMAL SCREAM have had what one might call a chequered career. Lead singer Bobby Gillespie started off banging the drums with the Jesus and Mary Chain before marching to the sound of his own band. Deciding on what that sound should be took time to work out.

It was with 1991's *Screamadelica* that it all fell into place, an album that was as much a manifesto for the emerging generation of chemically literate all-night ravers as it was a collection of sun-kissed, slouchy dance/rock grooves. However, it all went a bit melon-shaped with the follow-up, *Give Out But Don't Give Up*, wherein Gillespie and Co suffered under the delusion that they were the Scottish Rolling Stones and went about removing any trace of modernity from their music. Significantly, they have since removed most of this album from their set-list, preferring instead to concentrate on their current opus, *Vanishing Point*, which sees them return to a more strung-out, trippy dub sound.

Live this works pretty well, principally because the brand new rhythm section of Mani, once of the Stone Roses, on bass and Darren Mooney on drums is particularly strong, allowing the guitarists space to strike some time-honoured poses and Gillespie himself to lounge around swivelling that imaginary hula-hoop. An occasional brass section and moody keyboards complete the musical equation. The lighting, such as there was to speak of at the Olympia, lent an after-hours ambience to proceedings.

There was also an added visual dimension. Two screens showed high-speed clips of old news footage and hip icons of popular culture. All very interesting, but no more, really, than a scaled-down version of U2's Zoo TV visual assault.

Every now and then the band succumbed to their rockist tendencies. *Medication* — from their current album, oddly enough — still sounds like a Jagger/Richards composition and there were even shades of Deep Purple later on. *Come Together* and *Higher than the Sun*, however, redressed the balance.

But it wasn't the retro/futurist contradiction that left me unsatisfied. It was the feeling that Primal Scream live more for the after-show party than they do for the show itself.

– NICK KELLY

All twinkled out

IT WAS difficult not to feel sorry for Dubstar's six members as they took to the tiny stage at Manchester University Union. With two critically acclaimed silver-selling albums and several hit singles to their name, the band deserved to be playing a bigger and better venue. Peroxide blonde Geordie singer Sarah Blackwood seemed to think so too. For 45 minutes she scarcely acknowledged the audience, while Dubstar sped through around a dozen mid-tempo, electro-tinged tunes.

Unfortunately, a muted sound system and the odd acoustics of the low-ceilinged venue did not do justice to the subtleties that, on record, take songs such as *Anywhere, Stay Swithin's Day* and recent hit *Cathedral Park* into complex territory rarely occupied by pleasant, catchy pop. Wedged into a no man's land between indie rock and computer generated dance, at its best Dubstar's music mixes Cocteau Twins-like twisted melodies with insistent, Johnny Marr-inspired guitar and brilliantly observed lyrics on everyday life.

On Wednesday night, however, the band clearly couldn't be bothered to try to overcome basic obstacles such as bad sound. It took Dubstar's biggest hit to date, *Not So Manic Now*, to provoke a reaction from the audience.

The low-key performance marked the start of a UK tour delayed for a fortnight after keyboard player Steve Hillier contracted salmonella poisoning. With the new single *I Will Be Your Girlfriend*, a smart, sharp song about a one-night stand, poised only to scrape into the lower reaches of the chart on Sunday, Dubstar must be wondering where their once-promising pop plan went awry. Listening to adventurous, intelligent tracks such as *Inside*, the former single *No More Talk* and the soaring *Say The Worst Thing First* played live, it is obvious that Dubstar are a highly underrated pop outfit.

Shortly before the end of the set, Blackwood briefly disappeared before returning to the stage swigging from a can of Guinness. As she put her hands over her ears to hear herself sing a note-perfect rendition of *Stars*, she recalled several of the down-trodden but determined heroines in her own songs. A case of life imitating art, perhaps.

LISA VERRICO



Chewing the fat with Catch's handsome Toby Slater (centre) is like meeting the Milky Bar Kid injected with Colonel Tom Parker's brains. So what could possibly go wrong?

Toby or not to be? No question

The leader of alternative boy band Catch may be a wind-up merchant, but he could well wind up a star

Four years ago, there was a familiar sight backstage at festivals. A boy looking 13 years younger than the 14 he was at the time would be picking his way through the crowds. Milk-fed pale and immaculately clad in a fawn-coloured suit and natty Converse trainers, he would go up to lumbering, drunken adults, and start conversations.

Within five minutes he would have compared the Wonder Stuff to a minor character from *Ulysses* ("But one from one of the first eight chapters, 'cos I haven't got any further than that"); explained away the groupies hanging by the dressing rooms in the context of Situationism by way of six astonishing conversational leaps; and analysed the Great Pop Heroes of the moment with a keener scalpel than most of the industry insiders around him.

Whenever the grown-ups tried to argue back, he'd listen for six seconds, impatiently blowing his fringe out of his eyes, and then start insulting them — brazenly, wittily, and very slappably. At the conclusion of these slanging matches, he would hand his victim a small, neatly printed card bearing the legend "Toby Slater — Bramish" and disappear into the crowd.

One of his first victims, James Dean Bradfield from the Manic Street Preachers, muttered: "He'll own Sony before he's 30," at Slater's tiny departing back.

And so it was only ever a matter of finding the time in between his exams before Slater started his conquest of the pop world. He's now a gnarled, haggard 19 (although, after our interview, an e-mail arrives asking, "Could you do me a big favour and say we're all 18 in the article? As I keep telling [band mates] Wayne and Ben, if we carry on lowering our ages, then by the time we release our third album, we'll be younger than when we started. Then, when we spend our time playing pro-celebrity golf tournaments, we can have as many dermabrasions as we like and no one will bat an eyelid. Feel free to tell the public we're always lying to them.") He has the Manic Street Preachers' management and the Spice Girls' producers; his band is called Catch and their second single is out this week. They're big in Germany. This is quite amusing.

"Yes, well," Slater says, *faux* defensively. "Actually, it was very embarrassing last time we were out there — we ran a competition for six people to win dinner with Catch, and when we turned up at the restaurant, five of them had blown us out, and the sixth was this middle-aged woman who's obviously a professional competition-enterer, and just sat there eating as quickly as she could."



CAITLIN MORAN

As befits a boy with such ambition and nous, Slater hasn't merely formed a band, he's also tried to invent a genre. That genre is Credible New Romantic/Northern Soul/Rock-Pop Boy Band. He'll have to come up with a shorter name for it.

"And we've got to come up with a gimmick the kids can copy," he interrupts, waving an arm around. On closer inspection, his wrist has a length of see-through plastic strap on it. "All boy bands have gimmicks. Bros had those bottle tops on their shoes and the Beastie Boys had the Volkswagen logos. But our gimmick doesn't ruin people's cars, or put pressure on parents to buy expensive bottled drinks that are bad for young teeth," he adds, taking on the persona of Cheesy Grin Boy.

So is Slater worried that the fame that will inevitably be his consists, so far, of a debut single in at No 23 and being big in the homeland of the Scorpions? "My bitterest pill is that we're getting more critical acclaim than public," he says. "I hate the idea that just because we look for mainstream acceptance and big-style promotion, we're seen as nothing *but* a boy band."

He sighs. "What separates me from the Richard Ashcrofts and Thom Yorkes of this world? Less than you'd think. They are just as much street hookers as I am, and time will prove me to be a more expensive courtesan than they would ever dream of.

"But they are of another generation. What are the equivalents for my generation? Ash? Kenickie? What is stopping them from stepping forward and picking up the gauntlet I am so desperate to put my hand in?"

He really does talk like that. It's wonderful; like meeting a handsome Little Jimmy Osmond injected with Colonel Tom Parker's brains. He has the musical trousers to back it all up, too: Catch's second single, *Dive In*, quotes Flaubert's *Sentimental Education*, and sounds like the kind of thing Robbie Williams would give all his pie-money for. Which begs the question: what *are* they putting in Jellytots these days?

● Dive In *is released by Virgin*



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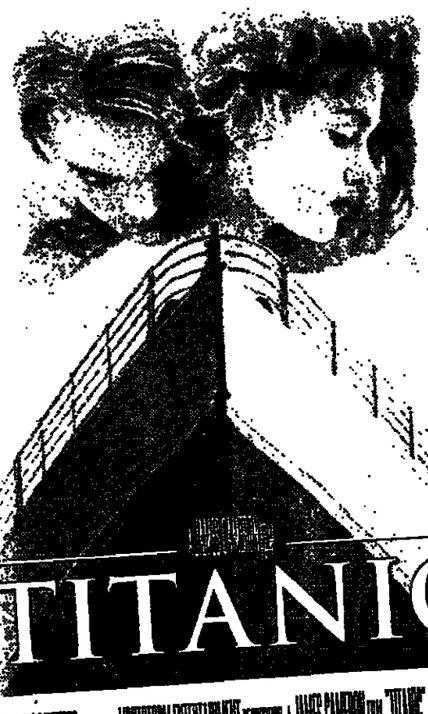
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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Martt Hargie

LONDON

EUROPEAN BIENNALE: A double bill tonight opens the Gate's season of recent drama from Europe. German playwright Helmut Krausser's *Leatherface*, a play about a man obsessed with the Texas Chainsaw Massacre, runs in tandem with The Chief Norwegian Jon Fosse's play about a young couple who meet at a bus stop and move in together.
Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706)
Leatherface: Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7pm. **The Child:** Tonight, 8.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8.30pm. Both run until February 24

JULIAN RACHLIN: A first London recital for the young Lithuanian violinist who, at the age of 16, made his debut with Riccardo Muti and the Vienna Philharmonic. He is joined by his pianist compatriot Itamar Golan in a programme that includes sonatas by Beethoven, Brahms and Franck.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Sun, 7.30pm

VAPOUR 98: Launch of a national tour showcasing young talents from Britain's leading independent dance labels. Heading tonight's line-up are Propellerheads and Hybrids, with DJs Jon Carter and the Agnew Twins.
Chelsea Bridge Studios, Adrenalin Village, Chelsea Bridge Road, SW8 (0990 343 4444/0171-333 0888)
Tomorrow, 9pm

XERXES: Emma Jenkins directs Nicholas Hytner's stylish production for English National Opera of Handel's spirited work about love rivalries. New company principal Sarah Connolly takes the title role, with Janis Kelly as Romilda. The young Polish counter-tenor Artur Stefanowicz makes his British debut as Arsamenes. Conductor is Noel Davies.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) Opens tonight, 7pm



Iris DeMent sings country in Coventry

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: Andy Hay directs **All My Sons**, Arthur Miller's tense and moving drama, and his first success, about the man whose faulty engine parts send US pilots to their deaths.
Old Vic, King Street, Bristol (0117 987 7877). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. Thur-Sat, 8pm, mats Thur and Sat, 2.30pm. Until March 7.

COVENTRY: Hailed as one of the most beautiful voices in country music, American singer-songwriter Iris DeMent arrives here to perform a selection of her slice-of-life lyrics from the 1996 album *The Way I Should*.
Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick (01203 524524). Tonight, 8pm

LIVERPOOL: Libor Pešek, former principal conductor of the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**, returns to old pastures as he swings the baton in a programme of contrasting French music featuring Debussy, Satie, Jolivet and Ravel.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789) Tomorrow, 7.30pm

MANCHESTER: The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, one of Brecht's most accessible satires, setting the rise of Hitler in a context of Chicago gangsters. A contribution to Manchester's Brechtfest.
Library Theatre, St Peter's Square, Manchester (0161-236 7110). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Mon, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thur, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats Thur (Feb 26), 3pm and Sat (Feb 14, Mar 7), 3pm

WOKING: The **Richard Alston Dance Company** spring tour touches down for its first ever visit here. On the programme are three of Alston's most recent works: *Brisk Singing*, *Light Flooding into Darkened Rooms* and *Rumours, Visions*.
New Victoria Theatre, The Peacocks Arts Centre (01483 761144). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm

LONDON GALLERIES

Design Museum: Conran Foundation Collection (0171-378 6055) . . **Goethe Institute:** Beautiful World (0171-594 0214) . . **Hayward:** Francis Bacon: The Human Body (0171-928 3144) . . **Museum of the Moving Image:** Hammer Horror (0171-815 1350) . . **National Recognising Van Eyck** (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait:** Edwardian Photographs (0171-306 0055) . . **Royal Academy:** Victorian Fairy Painting (0171-300 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
▣ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

▣ **AMY'S VIEW** Judi Dench and Samantha Bond play mother and daughter in David Hare's riveting drama of love, ambition, resentment and the hazards of contemporary life.
Aldwych The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm

■ **ART** Roger Allam, Mark Ford and Jack Dee in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

▣ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC** The sell-out RSC production from Stratford, with Antony Sher as Rostand's tragic romantic hero. Gregory Doran directs.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2pm

■ **THE DAY I STOOD STILL** National debut by Kevin Elyot, author of the excellent My Night with Reg. Ian Rickson directs his new play, arching the years from 1960s experiments to a surprise contemporaneity today.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm; tomorrow, 2.30pm; and 7.30pm. In rep

□ **DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN** The outrageously funny couple Hamish McColl and Sean Foley take The Right Size) and a on the West End with their hit fantasy of two men trapped in a bathroom. Part of the Live At The Vaudeville season.
Vaudeville Theatre The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until Feb 14

□ **EASY ACCESS (FOR THE BOYS)** New Claire Dowie play, exploring a rent boy's continuing fondness for the dad who sexually used him. An uncommon approach to a dark subject.
Orlit Hall, Cheriton Street, W1 (0171-637 8270) Tue-Sat, 7.30pm

■ **THE FRONT PAGE:** Alun Armstrong and Griff Rhys Jones play hard-nosed editor and ace reporter, leading a lovely cast in Sam Mendes's production of the classic Ben Hecht/Charles MacArthur comedy.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **JOURNEY'S END:** Sam West plays the stricken young captain in R C Sherriff's stiff-upper-lip play about the First World War.
King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat Sun, 3pm

□ **LAKEBOAT** European premiere of David Mamet's first play, dating from 1970: a rugged slice of life aboard a cargo boat on the Great Lakes. Aaron Mullen directs the cast of eight for Pleiman Productions.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 8701). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm

■ **LITTLE EYOLF** Terrific playing by Robert Glenister and Joanne Pearce at the heart of Adrian Noble's superb Ibsen production. Guilt, remorse and renewal on the fjord.
Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat tomorrow, 2pm. Final perf

□ **THE MAGISTRATE:** Ian Richardson plays the much harassed hero in a fitfully funny revival of Pinero's farce. Cast includes Graham Crowden, Frank Middlemass, John Paddon.
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **RICHARD III:** Eddie Marsan plays the villainous hero in Guy Retallack's production, set in the East End's gangsterland of the 1960s.
Pleasance Theatre, 40 North Rd, N7 (0171-609 1800). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thur, 2.30pm and Sun, 5pm

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) □ **Grease** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ▣ **An Inspector Calls** Garrick (0171-494 5085) ▣ **Jesus Christ Superstar** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . □ **Martin Guerre,** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ▣ **Miss Saigon** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . □ **The Mousetrap** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) □ **Starlight Express,** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . □ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CLUBBED TO DEATH (18) A young woman explores the rave scene on the outskirts of Paris. Atmospheric but slightly clumsy, directed by Yolande Zauberman. With Elodie Bouchez, Ea Jane Birkin.
Renoir (0171-837 8402)

◆ **FLUBBER** (U) Frantic Disney comedy, with Robin Williams as the absent-minded inventor of gravity-defying green goo. Director: Les Mayfield.
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4555) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** (▣ (0990 353930) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **THE ICE STORM** (15) Connecticut families in 1973 have sex on the brain. Wonderfully observant social drama, directed by Ang Lee, with Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ▣ (0171-727 4043) **Greenwich** (0181-858 3065) **Odeon Haymarket** (0181-315 4216) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **Screen/Hill** ▣ (0171-794 3025) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** ▣ (0171-437 4343)

UGETSU MONOGATARI: Mesguichi's 1953 spellbinder about a fish-monger, set in the world of ghosts. One of the world's great films.
NFT (0171-928 3232) ▣

THE WOODLANDERS (PG) Unobtrusive love in rural England, with a powerful performance by Emily Woof as the woodland girl who makes a mistaken marriage. Phil Agland directs. With Rufus Sewell.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (0181-315 4214)

CURRENT

DAS BOOT: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT (15) Tense claustrophobic German U-boat epic released with extra footage and a much improved soundtrack. With Jürgen Prochnow.
Plaza ▣ (0990 888990)

THE DELTA: Sexual odyssey of Memphis teenagers, one well-off and white, one poor and Vietnamese. Compelling low-budget drama from new director Ira Sachs.
ICA ▣ (0171-930 3647)

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN (18) Young male executives play with the affections of a deaf office worker. Brilliant, unsettling, darkly funny drama by Neil LaBute. With Aaron Eckhart, Matt Malloy, and Stacy Edwards.
ABCs: Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** ▣ (0171-638 8891) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

STELLA DOES TRICKS (18) Powerful British portrait of a teenage prostitute, with a riveting performance by Kelly Macdonald. Director: Coky Giedroyc.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

◆ **TITANIC** (12) Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio fall in love on the doomed liner. Ultimately overwhelming epic, directed by James Cameron.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6143) **Barbican** ▣ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-858 3065) **Notting Hill Coronet** ▣ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ▣ (0990 883990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **TOMORROW NEVER DIES** (12) Pierce Brosnan's James Bond combats an evil media mogul. Lumbering, Jonathan Pryce. Set piece thrills, but little sparkle.
Empire ▣ (0990 888990) ▣ **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** ▣ (0181-315 4215) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 882290) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ▣ (0181-970 6015)

◆ **WILDE** (15) Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde: fine and touching, though the film is more timid than you might expect. Conventional direction by Brian Gilbert.
ABCs: Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Odeon Camden Town** (0171-315 4255)

PC plod in search of Jack

The Journey of Mary Kelly
Theatre Clwyd

The Ripper industry grinds on, throwing up so many candidates for the post of our most famous serial killer that it cannot be long before someone proposes Queen Victoria cunningly disguised in a topper. So Sian Evans asks a good question in her new play. As she puts it in the programme, why is the murderer endlessly mythologised while "his victims are forgotten and dismissed"?

Evans's speculative biography of the last of those victims, Mary Kelly, has its faults, mainly a tendency to shove ideologically correct opinions at us. But Terry Hands is surely right to have chosen the play for his ambitious opening season at Wales's off-national or near-national theatre. Next week alone sees work by Shaffer, Orton, Rudkin, Mike Leigh and Alexander Cordell in Theatr Clwyd's two auditoriums, as well as Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* on tour — and now a new play by a young Welsh dramatist will be topping up the rep.

Bright but undereducated Mary, just arrived in London from Wales, takes a job in the Bohemian household of the emerging artist Walter Sickert. She leaves, lands up on the streets, is horribly butchered. So much, I believe, is fact. Evans seeks to broaden and deepen the tale, not just by evoking a dark, dangerous city, but by postulating an affair between her and the artist. Mutual rapture gives way to division when she gets pregnant. A child is born — but I shall say no more about the denouement, except that I don't think Sickert personally wields the knife.

Nevertheless, Evans makes it clear that Mary is the victim of the hypocrisy and misogyny of Sickert's improbably mixed circle. These men visit brothels and sneer at whores. To a businessman oddly called Henry Mayhew, they are "vermin" in need of exterminators. Meanwhile, another Sickert buddy, a surgeon, bangs on about curing women's emotional problems by removing everything from uterus to clitoris. Jack the Ripper, it seems, is the sexism of the era.

Evans may well be right about that, but she still tends to patrol Victorian London like some moral policeman time-warped in from 1998. Would the real Mary deliver Lawrentian tributes to a love in which body and soul are inextricable, or declare that there is "something basic and truthful" about prostituting herself?

But if there is too much editorialising — social inequality gets its comeuppance, too — there are also strong, gripping moments. With little but grey planking and red light, Hands gives us a sombre, sinister London, and has found a company which possesses energy, discipline and, at times, something more.

Whatever the cavils, you are sure to be stirred and moved by Rachel Sanders's Mary, who has got her hair from the Pre-Raphaelites and her passion from the theatrical gods. I expect to see much more of this actress in the future.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



IVAN KYNCL

Walter Sickert (Alun Raglan) gets to grips with the doomed Mary Kelly (Rachel Sanders)

Fangs, but no fangs

Dracula
Hackney Empire

I know actors who would gladly give their eye teeth to play to a packed Hackney Empire, but the one I accompanied said he would have to be put in a straitjacket to get him anywhere near this. Emerging through white muslin drapes drifts Padraig Casey's Count, dressed in black velvet cloak, slavering fangs and a pair of ears he inherited from Spock.

With his tortuously laboured accent Casey's Dracula does not need the messy business of bites and blood. He can simply bore his victims to death. He pretends to Nick Cawdron's estate agent that he has learnt his "Eeenglüish" from books, when it is quite obvious that he has been tutored by a failed British Rail announcer.

Why the Count leaves his "cheeldren of the nüight" to come to London is as mysterious as everything else about this production. Drapes with heads poking through, gallop across the stage pretending to be railway carriages. Toffee-nosed ladies and gents in tails ignore each other in parks. And a large chest successfully upstages several performers by impersonating a carriage, a ship and a bed when all the time we know it is stuffed full of the vampires.

What little plot there is flits mainly around the Count's nightly bites out of Janina Field's Lucy and her subsequent and dastardly attempts to undo the 29-year-old owner of the local asylum, Doctor Van Helsing, sporting side-burns that a werewolf would be proud of, keeps imposing his bad accent and crucifixes between Neil Sheffield's doctor and the walking dead.

If anything it is the script, reputedly adapted from Bram Stoker's 100-year-old original, that is the evening's real shocker. James Gill looks as if he sat down and stitched this from a thousand drunken hours of bleary, late-night Hammer horrors. At the treacle pace at which he also directs it, no wonder his bats are permanently grounded. The fatal flaw is that Gill takes his adaptation far too seriously when it begs to be camped up to the eyeballs or simply shot between the eyes.

There are, however, moments of inadvertently sublime comedy, several provided by Andrew Boroughs's Renfield, Dracula's fly-eating stooge, who delivers a brilliant piece of head-rolling, twitching lunacy. Sadly, however, one to please the brain dead rather than the undead.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Triple whammy

CONCERT

NO FEWER than three heavyweight maestros had their names attached to Wednesday's London Philharmonic concert. Originally scheduled to have been under the baton of the late Georg Solti, it was taken over by Kurt Masur, following Klaus Tennstedt's recent death, it was dedicated to the memory of the conductor with whom the orchestra enjoyed a unique relationship.

The unhurried unfolding of Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* at the start of the evening evoked much of the old tradition to which Tennstedt belonged. The answer to the mysterious opening bars has special serenity, and Masur obtained a measured performance while never ignoring the stormy drama that breaks through the surface so insistently.

Written during the onset of Schubert's serious illness, the work is full of tragedy. The orchestra was on its best form, with playing that was by turns soft-grained and muscular, the principal winds providing beautifully moulded solos.

The second half of the concert did not reach the same exalted level. *Das Lied von der Erde* was one of Mahler's valedictory works, but in spite of that and the Tennstedt associations it must hold for the orchestra, this account was shallow. There was a gulf between what Masur and the orchestra were striving for, and what the singers delivered. Masur conducted with subtlety and drew out all the exotic colour without emphasising the work's symphonic structure.

In the drinking song at the start, Herbert Lippert strained to project over the turbulent orchestra, but what was audible came across in an unsteady bleat. Though not free of wobble either, the mezzo Florence Quivar was closer to the mark in her numbers. But there is a sameness about all her tone and little clarity to her German, and this was not the soul-searching performance it could have been.

JOHN ALLISON

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Sian Kevill, the first woman to edit *Newsnight*, wants to keep the programme "at the cutting edge" of politics — and that means retaining the services of Jeremy Paxman and Kirsty Wark

The inquisitors' general

Sian Kevill, the first woman Editor of *Newsnight*, tells **Carol Midgley** of her plans to give it an even sharper journalistic edge

When Sian Kevill took over at *Newsnight* on January 12 this year, she earned the double distinction of becoming its first female Editor and taking on the most gossiped-about programme in BBC news.

Rumours have been circulating for months about the future of the prince of political debate programmes. Some industry insiders claimed it was to be radically revamped, "dumbed down" or rescheduled to boost ratings after a lacklustre period last year when presenter Jeremy Paxman took prolonged leave to write a book.

Other more excitable sources speculated that the loss of the show's godfather, Peter Snow, to *Tomorrow's World* was the death-knell for *Newsnight* and that it would be axed as soon as the BBC had completed its continuing review of news and current affairs programmes.

The arrival of Kevill in the Editor's chair, however, has caused a hush to descend on the rumour-mongers. She is one of the BBC's most trusted, home-grown talents and her appointment is seen as evidence that the corporation has long-term, sensible plans for *Newsnight*.

Kevill, 36, has her own plans to "refresh" its image. She is keen to bring on new presenters with sufficient gravitas to carry the programme when Paxman and co-host Kirsty Wark are away. She also wants to develop the idea of "signature journalism" — where viewers will switch on the television to discover the view of a particular *Newsnight* journalist, who they trust, on a current issue.

But the whispers that Paxman and Wark may not remain with *Newsnight* are hastily dismissed. "I have the two best presenters in British television news. I would be absolutely mad to get rid of the best in the business," says Kevill. "I have spoken to them both. They are very happy and see their future with the programme.

"Jeremy is unique, a one-off. No other programme has anybody like him — and Kirsty is the most respected female presenter of heavyweight programmes on television. That makes it hard to find someone who does not feel in their shadow. But there is a role for a third presenter now that Peter has moved on. Presenters on *Newsnight* need a hinterland. They need to have lived to carry the authority. That is what we are looking for."

Kevill is acutely aware that she follows a long line of respected editors including Peter Horrocks, recently moved to *Panorama*, and Tim Gardam, now controller of Channel 5 news.

She says her successful management of *Newsnight* will depend on building a strong and trustworthy team around her, partly because of her family commitments (she has a seven-year-old son and a five-year-old daughter. Her husband is a writer for radio and television).

"It is daunting, yes. Peter (Horrocks) is a hard act to follow," she says. "You cannot rest on the laurels of the previous editor. But at the same time *Newsnight* is a very strong brand and you don't change a successful brand out of recognition. It is all about refreshing it . . . and I suppose another word for refresh is modernise.

"*Newsnight* faces tougher competition from other news programmes now than at any time in its 18-year history. We should be setting the agenda again.

People run this programme in different ways. Some were very hands-on, others less so. My style will probably be somewhere in the middle.

"You cannot work from ten until midnight five days a week. If there is a big story breaking, of course you stay until the end — but I will put a lot of faith in delegation. I have told my family that the next three months are going to be tough, but in reality it will probably be six months."

Kevill, the daughter of a teacher and a lecturer from North London, has proved a popular choice for Editor among her colleagues. She has spent virtually all her working life with the BBC, joining the World Service after finishing at Cambridge, where she read history. As a BBC trainee she joined *The Money Programme*, then went to *Newsnight* as assistant producer and worked her way up the ranks. After that she joined *On The Record* as deputy editor, then returned to radio, editing programmes such as *From Our Own Correspondent*. Her job immediately before taking over *Newsnight* was deputy head of political programmes.

"You know what you are getting with Sian," says a colleague. "She is straightforward, she has a sharp brain and she can think laterally. People do not see her as big-headed or high-handed, which is important for morale."

Another adds: "Sian is good news. But the contribution that Peter Snow made to the programme should not be underestimated. He always made it good television — he is the most underrated journalist at the BBC. Sian won't find a replacement for him."

Making BBC history by becoming *Newsnight*'s first female editor pleases Kevill. "I like the fact — although there are firsts happening all the time. There is Rosie Boycott becoming the first woman editor of a broadsheet (she is now editor of *The Independent* as well as the *Independent on Sunday*) and women taking over editorships of other programmes. I am glad there are a few of us. The more women you have taking over these positions, the more it provides role models for other women."

Having worked in political programme-making during some of the most exciting times in recent years at Westminster, she acknowledges that politics became a little, well, *dull* after the general election, which inevitably had a knock-on effect on the content of programmes. Some seasoned viewers of *Newsnight* also remarked that when Paxman took leave last year, the programme lost much of the combative edge which makes it such stimulating television.

"People certainly missed Jeremy," says Kevill, "and there was a feeling that we should be building up people who could stand in for him, who were also strongly identified with the programme. Research has shown that *Newsnight* has quite a following among young men, because they like to see Jeremy in combative mode. There is a sense of the gladiatorial in it. But obviously Jeremy and Kirsty cannot be on all the time."

Some say that Scots presenter Gordon Brewer is developing in the Paxman mould, but stress that journalists have not – until recent weeks – been able to get their teeth into good political controversies.

"Politics has not been on full throttle for a while, but it is starting to warm up a lot," says Kevill. "I want people to come to the programme and feel at home. It is essential to develop that rapport between team and audience.

"What is wonderful about *Newsnight* is that it has so much latitude. It brings an extra dimension to the main story of the day. People like to watch it because it has an angle on the news."

BBC insiders say there is a push towards having more people-led stories in the news. Part of the BBC's review has found that audiences are turned off by heavy stories which they see as having no relevance to their lives. Kevill acknowledges the trend but sees *Newsnight*'s place as being at the coalface of news.

"People-led stories are important, there is no doubt about that," she says. "But I think the priority for this programme is to be at the cutting edge."

How much telly can we take?

At long last some at least of the uncertainties surrounding the launch of "up to 200 channels" of digital satellite television in the UK are beginning to be resolved. We now know that there are going to be only about 150 channels of television and the other 50 will be music, audio or radio channels. As few people seem to have been desperately clamouring for 200 channels in the first place, I'm sure we'll all manage to bump along somehow.

We now even have a pretty definite launch date, albeit of the rather flexible variety. Mark Booth, the chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting, nailed his colours to the mast this week. There will be a digital satellite launch in June. It will be more than just a pilot. There will be receiving equipment available for consumers to buy in June in the high street, although it is unlikely that there will be piles of them stacked up in Dixons stores. The big push, and indeed the real launch, will, as everyone expected, not come until the autumn and be aimed at the key pre-Christmas market.

What exactly viewers will be able to see is also starting to become clearer. There will, of course, be new specialist thematic channels of an unspecified nature. There will be lots of "multiplexing" – showing the same channels in a different order so that you can see your favourite programme, even if you arrive home late, without the technological challenge of having to set a video recorder.

BBC1 and BBC2 are to be broadcast on digital satellite so that, apart from the high quality digital sound and pictures, the full range of British television will be on offer on digital satellite. There is even talk of a third "multiplexed" BBC channel which would be a rearranged combination of BBC1 and BBC2. Channel 4 and Channel 5 will probably be there, too, although ITV is being rather sniffy at the moment.

As originally planned, 80 channels will also be set aside for the top movies, so that for the payment of a modest sum, probably £2.99, the viewer will never be more than 30 minutes away from the start of the movie of their choice.

But as to what everything is going to cost, how the service will be promoted and how the company plans to lure its existing satellite subscribers over, Mark Booth is playing his cards very close. It is expected, however, that the decoders will be heavily subsidised and retail for £199.

It also became clear this week just how much BSkyB needs this digital launch to rejuvenate the market and turn something to entice the 70 per cent or so of the population who are still struggling along with only five channels. The flat pre-tax profits of £128.6 million for the second half of last year were entirely respectable, given the size of the investment in digital. There were two alarming trends, however. One was a significant rise in "churn" – jargon for lost subscriptions. The other was a slowing in the level of new subscriptions.

Naturally, special circumstances were cited – in particular the effect of people waiting for digital to come along. There is another possibility – that subscriptions may be hitting a natural ceiling of those who want and are prepared to pay for multi-channel television. Mark Booth will have none of it. He believes that if there is a ceiling it is more likely to be at 75 per cent of the population, rather 30 per cent – particularly when people realise digital is not just going to be wall-to-wall football.



Raymond Snoddy

Raymond Snoddy on a surprise attack

Campbell broadside shakes up the BBC

The BBC yesterday shrugged off an extraordinary attack made in Washington by the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell on its political coverage — but privately it must be concerned.

In a briefing with political correspondents travelling with the Prime Minister in the US, Mr Campbell accused the BBC of being obsessed with the private lives of politicians and trying to keep Monica Lewinsky, the White House intern, as the story of the week. He also attacked the Corporation for concentrating on the private life of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

The Downing Street press secretary, who used to work for *The Mirror*, went on to describe the BBC as "downmarket and dumbed-down" and added that it was outdated, overstaffed and bureaucratic.

While many would have trouble denying the "bureaucratic" charge, some critics would add that it was far too enthusiastically embracing the future through everything from the Internet to digital television.

The attack seems to have been partly provoked by questions from BBC political correspondent John Sargent. The comments could reflect merely the irritations of a foreign tour being dominated by domestic issues flowing from London. It would however spell trouble for the Corporation if Mr Campbell's attitude reflects the views of his master Mr Blair. In the past Sir Bernard Ingham often reflected in briefings the antipathy Lady Thatcher felt for the BBC while she was Prime Minister.

The views will come as an unpleasant jolt to John Birt, the BBC Director-General, who prides himself on his good relations with New Labour and indeed with Mr Blair himself.

There is also some surprise in the BBC at the timing of the outburst. Mr Campbell attended a private BBC seminar at Balliol College, Oxford, two weeks ago on the future of political reporting and seemed supportive.

Such a controversy being stirred up in Washington will also not help the BBC's overseas expansion plans. The Corporation is close to completing an agreement with Discovery Communications of the US under which it will launch BBC America, the first of a number of cable channels planned for the US market.

Any permanent rift between the Government and the BBC — rather than the impatient remarks of a press secretary under pressure — would be serious for the Corporation. In less than three years the BBC has to begin justifying the continuation of its licence — something that goes to the heart of its future.

The likelihood is however that Mr Campbell will soon calm down — at least until the next BBC journalist asks questions he does not care for.

Writer-friendly Auntie lures an ITV drama star

■ PANIC within ITV. Paul Abbott, its top drama writer, has signed an exclusive contract with the BBC. He is protesting at the cheeseparing way his work has been treated, especially by Granada. Last year Abbott created two of ITV's biggest hits, *Reckless* and *Touching Evil*. But he says he "had a bad time" making the pilot of a futuristic thriller, *20/20*, on too small a budget. He then found Granada's production schedule on a follow up *Reckless* film (can the passion between Robson "Dr Springer" Green and Francesca "Older Woman Anna" Annis survive?) horribly tight. He says Granada is "greedily stripping off too big a chunk of the production budget as profit".

Abbott has only ever worked for ITV, joining *Coronation Street* in 1984, devising *Children's Ward* with Kay (*Band Of Gold*) Mellor then bursting into the top echelon alongside Mellor and Jimmy McGovern by writing award winning episodes of *Cracker*. Michael Jackson, the former controller of BBC1, started wooing him last year, with Alan Yentob taking up the serious schmoozing. If it works, Abbott will sign up for a second year.

His BBC series will be called *The Factory*, which, he says, will "tell big stories about small lives. Exceptional stories about unexceptional people. I will need big stars" — his dream cast includes Kathy Burke and Zoe Wanamaker. As a consequence, Abbott has pulled out of a Granada series about 50 years of a family leading up to the millennium.

He is "thrilled" with the BBC's new writer-friendly approach. But his defection casts an interesting light on the defects of Granada's Gerry Robinson/Charles Allen regime. And it spells trouble as ITV struggles to reverse its ratings slide. Time will tell if Abbott's switch to the BBC has been a little . . . ahem . . . reckless!.



Changing partners: Annis and Green in Abbott's *Reckless*



Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

■ SPOT the media scrum around Peter Davis, the former Ofsted regulator? As he struggled to the door of the Department of Media, Culture and Sport, he was physically thrown backwards by a cameraman. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State, said Davis deserved a media apology. The Press Complaints Commission concurs. But the watchdog acts only after a complaint and one hasn't been lodged. How the media damages itself . . .

■ A FINAL word on who coined the phrase "red tops". The crucial witness is Roy Greenslade, *The Guardian*'s newspaper columnist. He says he first heard it from Alan Frame, former deputy editor of *The Express*, four years ago. Frame, now running a newspaper called *The American*, confirms he and then *Express* editor Sir Nicholas Lloyd used it in the 1980s, as a handy way of distinguishing the *Mirror*, *Sun*, and *Star* from the *Express* and *Mail* middle-market titles. Frame's invention spread into common currency, after being adopted by the likes of Greenslade and *The Times*'s Brian MacArthur.

■ HOWELL JAMES, the former head of John Major's political office, delighted Radio 4 audiences last autumn with his series *Perhaps PM*, describing how he would sit in the Major's bedroom, as Norma wandered by in her nightie. With Major speaking tours conveying fame + millionaire status, I wondered if James had a lengthier *Perhaps PM: My Days At Number 10* in the offing? "Not at all probably never. The radio scripts at 7,500 words, were short enough not to be too detailed," Howell is busily setting up a PR firm instead.

■ REALLY useful news from the *New Scientist*. Amid all the hype and clutter of the media-channel revolution it reports that aerials will be a thing of the past. A new flat box metal-foil device, called "fractal antennae" will do the work, and can be built into all manner of television and radio sets. Can't quite see how.

I married a German serial filler

■ HAS the casting couch been replaced with the marital bed? I ask because the German wife of Laurence Marks, half of the Marks and Gran writing team, has two parts in their two current series. On Saturdays Brigitte Kahn is appearing as Ruth, a middle-European psychotherapist, in the duo's brittle sitcom *Unfinished Business*, set in North London. A lonely divorcée (Harriet Walters) pours her heart out to Ruth in the unfunniest exchanges imaginable. Kahn will also pop up in Channel 4's drama *Mosley* as Mussolini's girlfriend.



Brigitte Kahn

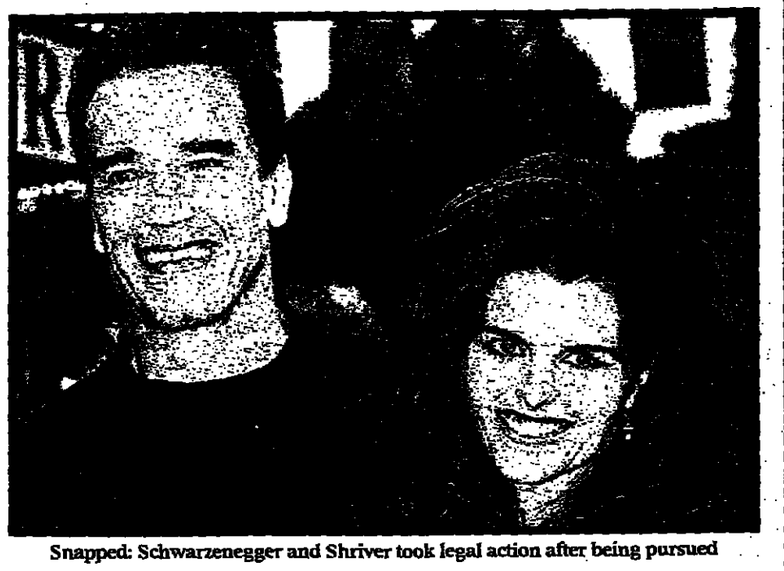
Marks, who has undergone bouts of therapy, assures me that Hampstead is brimful of *mittel*-European therapists, making his wife ideal. "Yes, she does sleep with me, but it's irrelevant. We cast the best we can." It is certainly no bar: the BBC has just commissioned a second series.

LA law is snapping back





In the frame: Harrison, left, and O'Brien harassed stars



Snapped: Schwarzenegger and Shriver took legal action after being pursued

The case against two British photographers in Hollywood has focused attention on paparazzi and the law, says **Giles Whittell**

Andrew O'Brien can be forgiven for keeping his sunglasses on indoors this week. A mild-mannered Englishman who takes pictures for a living, he was pictured in the *LA Times* himself on Tuesday after being scolded like a schoolboy for harassing one of Hollywood's biggest stars.

The scene was Santa Monica Superior Court. The charge was "false imprisonment" of Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife Maria Shriver as they drove their son to kindergarten. The verdict: guilty. Some legal experts have applauded it. O'Brien's friends had seen it coming, and in the end even he was not surprised.

"I'm genuinely sorry they were upset," he said of the Schwarzeneggers, over a capuccino (and under the threat of jail, should Judge Robert Altman impose the maximum penalty later this month). "What troubles me is being convicted for an incident that never happened."

The verdict against O'Brien and his colleague, Giles Harrison, followed a peculiar two-day trial notable for having no jury and for the sight of the man from the *Terminator* films drawing cars in marker pen on an easel. But for the first time in America since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, it focused serious legal attention on what paparazzi should and should not get away with, and on the law being used against them.

Most of those involved in the Schwarzenegger incident agree on one thing: it got out of hand. On May 1 last year Shriver noticed she was being followed soon after leaving home in her Mercedes with her husband beside her and her young son behind. She tried to lose the two four-wheel-drives in her mirror, but failed. When one of them touched her bumper with a wheel she lost her cool. while Schwarzenegger, two weeks out of heart surgery, tried to keep his.

Outside the kindergarten, what O'Brien hoped would be a straightforward snap escalated into a shoving match, with a FedEx driver trying to shield the recuperating action star. Swear words flew. Parents were appalled. Police were called.

Both British men knew of Schwarzenegger's heart condition; it was the reason they were chasing him. But they had no idea a child was in the car, they say, nor that Shriver was five months pregnant. On that basis O'Brien defended his assignment. "It was a difficult job," he said, "but in the scheme of Hollywood news it was a picture worth taking. Mr Schwarzenegger was of interest that day and people like him. They just don't like us."

> **They might as well go into court with 'guilty' on their foreheads**

The judge agreed with much of this. He recognised the photographers' right to do their job on public land and threw out all charges related to the kindergarten. But on the bumper incident he stuck fast. Shriver said O'Brien had boxed her in. O'Brien swore he hadn't and provided videotape to back this up, but Altman rejected his testimony, called him a "jerk" and found both men guilty as charged.

His ruling poses a worrisome question for Hollywood paparazzi in the post-Diana era: if they end up in court, will anyone believe them? Absolutely, said Jeff Harkavy, who prosecuted the actor Alec Baldwin two years back for breaking a photographer's nose. He lost the case even though Baldwin admitted being in the wrong, but still insists the LA legal system is neither starstruck nor indulging in an anti-tabloid backlash.

Lindner takes a different view. "When Princess Diana passed away the first thing I said was 'this is a nightmare for our case'," he said this week. A former colleague of the two Britons put it more concisely after last year's tragedy: "They might as well go into court with 'guilty' plastered on their foreheads." What they would be found guilty of was not so clear. America has laws against stalking and to protect privacy, but they are seldom enforced against a press that zealously defends its freedoms. Hence the use of the "false imprisonment" statute, which protects the public's basic right to move around.

Lindner claims the statute had not been used against the press in 150 years and that for Altman to do so now is a blatant stretch of the law. "What O'Brien and Harrison did was obnoxious, but an obnoxious personality is not a crime in the US," he said. "Judge Altman had to turn it into one to send a message that you don't mess with the stars in Santa Monica."

Lindner has gone out on a limb defending his two British clients. Other attorneys say a law that rightly allows of very broad interpretation was clearly broken. More tellingly, LA's British news agencies report radical self-censorship by the London tabloids since last summer and have toned down their own tactics accordingly. But they still win either way.

Kevin Smith, for whom O'Brien and Harrison were working when the storm erupted, said: "We've probably made as much money covering the case as we've spent defending ourselves in it. It's sick and mercenary and horrible, but true."

Empire building — a Sunday business

When Roy Thomson moved to Britain in 1953, the first newspaper he bought was *The Scotsman*. Within six years he owned *The Sunday Times* and Britain's biggest regional newspaper group. Eight years after that he was the owner of *The Times*. The question posed as *Sunday Business*, Britain's newest newspaper, prepares to launch on Sunday week, is whether the Barclay brothers, the reclusive owners of European Press Holdings, are setting out on the same path.

Five years ago they bought *The European* and last year *The Scotsman* (with *Scotland on Sunday* and the *Edinburgh Evening News*). Now they are launching a Sunday paper with national ambitions. What next? It is no secret that they would be bidders if either *The Independent* or *Observer* were up for sale and their long-term aim is to establish a medium-sized, upmarket newspaper empire.

They are prepared to invest in editorial content and seem prepared to bear heavy losses on *The European*. *Sunday Business* will have 40 staff. They have also made shrewd appointments. Chief executive Bert Hardy was one of the senior managers at the centre of the move to Wapping and has been in command at *The Sun* and *Daily Mail*. Editor-in-chief Andrew Neil was Editor of *The Sunday Times* for 11 years and is clearly enjoying his new role as a nascent media mogul. Since Hardy and Neil took on *The Scotsman*, sales of all three titles have risen and they relaunched *The European* last month in a compact magazine format. Both have high ambitions and the Barclays are said to be relishing their progress.

Now, with *Sunday Business* (which went bankrupt under its previous owners), Neil and Hardy start nibbling at the Premiership and trying to climb their biggest mountain so far. They have a generous three years to succeed and £1 million to spend on advertising.

Sunday Business is pitching itself into a market that already seems saturated. There are serious business sections in *The Sunday Times*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Observer*, *Independent on Sunday* and *Mail on Sunday*, with combined sales of five million. Their aims are modest and they have hired in Jeff Randall a business journalist with an enviable contacts book and a superb record of scoops as City editor and managing editor of *The Sunday Times* Business section.

Even his rivals concede that his staff include some of business journalism's hardest hitters.

Neil and Randall have set themselves a modest target — a sale of 80,000-100,000, mainly in London and the South East. They accuse their rivals of going downmarket and are aiming *Sunday Business* at AB readers and printing on pink paper to identify with the *FT*. The two-section, 48-page paper will sell for 50p.

Randall talks tall. Where's the overseas news in *The Sunday Telegraph*? Why did *The Independent on Sunday* fail to report the Glaxo-Wellcome merger last weekend? *The Sunday Times* goes to press at 2am on Saturday morning, 19 hours before *Sunday Business*. None of the international business papers, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *FT* or the *International Herald Tribune*, are on sale on Sunday. So what do serious businessmen read?

Randall talks the talk, now let him walk the walk, say his rivals. Sunday is not a working day, even businessmen relax, and his dummies are dull and lifeless. Why advertise in *Sunday Business*, when the same readers can be reached in *The Sunday Times*, *Sunday Telegraph* or *Mail on Sunday*? How can he match the sheer power of the 60 pages of business, personal finance, innovation, property and jobs ads — which Neil himself created — in *The Sunday Times*?



Few experiences in journalism can match launching a new newspaper — the exhilaration, fear of failure, certain knowledge that rivals are raising their game to strangle you at birth. I have launched two. One is still going strong 21 years later. The other, *Today*, was a failure. That is why I can never quite summon the necessary critical detachment about new newspapers and why I always want them to succeed. *Sunday Business* can meet its targets without harming any of its rivals.

● *It must surely be apocryphal but Editor Richard Ingrams tells a splendid story in* The Oldie *about newspapers' pursuit of "youf". When Hugh Massingberd was editing the* Daily Telegraph's *obituaries, the marketing department complained about the number of oldies he featured. "Couldn't we have some more young people?"*

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No marketing tournament is greater than the battle over the World Cup. **Alex Benady** and **Paul Staheli** report

Has the World Cup already been won?

With months still to go before the kick-off, some sponsors have scored spectacular goals

Who is going to win the World Cup? Brazil? Germany? Or will it be General Motors? When the whistle blows to start Scotland's match against Brazil in Paris on June 10, it won't be just the first game of the 1998 World Cup that kicks off. It will unleash a marketing frenzy of unparalleled intensity as business attempts to cash in on what is being billed — by the organisers at least — as "the largest single sporting event on the planet".

The four weeks of the tournament will be the focus of billions of pounds spent by companies across the world, all eager to associate themselves with the magic of the *Coup du Monde*. For them the real issue is not which team triumphs, but who can make their name most closely associated with the tournament. In the language of business, it is a contest to "own" the World Cup.

This World Cup is huge — 2.5 million people will attend the games, which will be broadcast in 195 countries. Average television audiences are predicted to be about 500 million, and the cumulative audience could be as high as 37 billion — more than four times the population of the planet.

Just as important as the size of the audience is the quality of its involvement. "Football is a universal currency. It inspires emotional commitment that other sports can't and it is a major element of global culture," says Martin Cannon, of the Institute of Sports Sponsorship.

Much of the commercial activity will be with the co-operation of the organisers, who have struck deals with 45 commercial partners, including 12 official sponsors paying an average £20 million each. In return, sponsors will receive between two and four advertising hoardings at every game, plus the right to use the Fifa World Cup logo on their products, advertising and promotions.

But there is so much at stake that many companies, even well respected global names, will find themselves unable to leave the field to their rivals completely unchallenged. Despite promises by Fifa to do its best to prevent "ambushes", every one of the 12 sponsors is likely to find a shadowy *doppelgänger* in some market or other.

The most prominent contest will be the grudge match between the official sponsor, Adidas, and ambush specialists, Nike. Coca-Cola, another official sponsor, is likely to face stiff competition from Pepsi, which is already involved with sponsoring football in Latin America and claims to have "exciting plans for '98", even though it denies that these plans have any connection with the World Cup.

"It is quite possible for several sponsors to do well at the same time, particularly if they are not in direct competition," Sean Jefferson, head of sponsorship at Western Media, says. But the one company most likely to appear to "own" the World Cup, in the UK at least, is General Motors and its British incarnation, Vauxhall.

GM has pulled off the remarkable coup of acquiring not only sponsorship of the event, it has also landed sponsorship of ITV's coverage of the matches. Every programme will open with a 15-second Vauxhall credit, each commercial break will have five-second "bumpers" (at the beginning and end of the break) and the programmes will be closed by a 10-second Vauxhall credit.

Evidence from the past suggests that programme sponsorship alone is often sufficient to "own" the event. "After Sony's sponsorship of the 1991 Rugby World Cup, 27 per cent of adults perceived them as the event sponsor, way ahead of the actual ones," says Tim Brady, of TSMS the ITV sales house responsible for brokering the deal.

> **'It is going to be the most important and glamorous sporting event in the world'**

Vauxhall is said to have paid about £4 million for the UK programme sponsorship. But to get the best out of any sponsorship you have to make sure people know about it and exploit it through promotions and advertising. This leveraging is likely to double the bill. And unlike the event sponsorship, which is one global deal, programme sponsorship has to be negotiated with broadcasters country by country. GM, in its guise of Opel in Europe and Asia, and Chevrolet in the Americas, is in talks with broadcasters in a number of other key markets, says Jim Latham, the director of the World Cup for General Motors Europe. The company could find itself committing hundreds of millions of pounds to its World Cup programme.

It is able to do this only because Fifa insists that event sponsors are given first refusal of programme sponsorship. Event sponsorship, it seems, is the key to programme sponsorship.

It is almost impossible to "ambush" programme sponsorship. So, coupled with its event sponsorship, Vauxhall looks almost unassailable. "The World Cup is the most important and glamorous sporting event in the world. We hope that the synergy between the event and programme sponsorship will allow us to shut out the competition," Mr Latham says.

But the real reward for GM lies in the future. Event and programme sponsorship will be sold together for the first time in the 2002 Cup. By then, GM will have a long record of working with organisers and broadcasters. It has given itself the inside track for sponsorship of World Cups to come.

ALEX BENADY



World Cup action from the Nigeria versus Italy match in Massachusetts in 1994 . . . and on the sidelines. Coca-Cola's branding dominates the image

Rebel advertisers who are ready to ambush

When the organisers of the World Cup sent out 1,500 letters to advertising and promotion agencies warning them against using what they call "parasite marketing", it must have seemed — to some agencies at least — more of a challenge than a threat.

Secure in the knowledge that legal action can be taken only if a company uses an official brand, mascot or logo without permission, streetwise marketing men have shown that they can make big international events their own without paying a penny; and they have hit upon a tactic that is undermining the once unquestionable value of officially attaching your brand name to sporting events.

Think back to the 1996 European Football Championships, with Virgin Cola's not-quite-actionable claim to being "unofficial" sponsors of the tournament, and *The Sun*'s cheeky takeover of the entire Wembley Stadium by handing out hats emblazoned with their logo to thousands of fans. Undisputed masters of the art, however, are Nike, whose devastatingly effective hijacking of international events has stemmed from clever media buying and a shrewd policy of investing in people rather than occasions.

It was this approach that stole the show for Nike during Euro 96. Despite a poster campaign notable for its utter failure to predict correctly the heroes and zeroes of the tournament, such straightforward ploys as saturating the entire road infrastructure leading to Wembley with Nike billboards made it the most visible brand of the championships, completely eclipsing the official sponsor (Umbro who?). Research suggests that people even believed Nike to have been official sponsors themselves.

The list of Nike's unconventional marketing coups goes on. Poster and press ads surrounding the London Marathon featuring the disabled athlete Peter Hull with the tag line "Peter's not like ordinary people — he's done the marathon" generated enough attention to establish Nike as the perceived, if not the real, sponsor of the event.

At the Atlanta Olympics, despite the organisers' fanatical copyrighting of all properties conceivably related to the Games, the abiding image — the Michael Johnson's golden running shoes — carried the Nike logo. At the Adidas-sponsored Berlin Marathon last year, Nike simply found out the name of the oldest competitor and covered the course with the slogan "Go Heinrich", so capturing the public imagination.

"There's something terribly attractive about parasite marketing," says Graham Bednash, of the award winning media strategists Michaelides and Bednash. "It's a David and Goliath situation, where you've got the establishment spending a fortune on sponsorship. If you can find an imaginative way of hijacking the event, it's a very compelling thing to do. It's got this slightly subversive, guerrilla marketing feel about it. It enables you to show the personality of the brand in a more interesting way."

With France '98 numbering such personality-free corporate giants as Fuji, Gillette, Opel, Canon, JVC, Mastercard and Philips among its official sponsors, the potential for attacking their share of the limelight is enormous. "Apart from possibly Adidas and Coca-Cola, you wouldn't call any of the 12 official sponsors subversive," Bednash says. "They're all quite traditional, and that's the opportunity. If you're a Tango or a Nike, they're easy prey."

Fifa's marketing partners ISL admit that there is not a great deal they can do to protect the extremely expensive rights of their sponsors. "There are going to be instances where [parasite marketing] does happen at the World Cup," says ISL's Chas Sharp. "If you're creative enough, there might be possibilities of associating yourself with the football without infringing directly, in which case it would certainly be difficult for us to do anything about it. It's something we're going to be looking at very closely after France '98."

PAUL STAHELI



Nike, masters of the advertising ambush: an example from Euro 96

Crazy regulation



■ ADMEN and politicians battle it out in the lower reaches of the public popularity tables, so it's tough taking sides in a dispute over who is bringing whom into disrepute.

But this is what happened this week about a letter written last summer to party leaders by John Hooper, CBE, director-general of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA) and chairman of the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP).

Hooper criticised political advertising for not conforming to all aspects of the British Codes of Advertising and Sales Promotion. Political ads are also exempt from European legislation on misleading advertising.

In effect, they are not required to prove their claims. They can therefore, claims Hooper, "mislead by ambiguity, exaggeration, omission or otherwise". Confusingly, some points of the codes do apply — notably those that caused the "demon eyes" campaign to be censured. He says that if political advertising seems to flout the codes, then public confidence in advertising is undermined and the industry "brought into disrepute".

He has offered two potential solutions. First, for political parties to be bound by all aspects of the codes without exemptions. But this would be a logistical nightmare that might require extra funding. Second, for parties to accept that all political advertising is propaganda, and set up yet another advertising regulatory body in order to police it. Opposition MPs have inevitably poo-pooed the idea. One said: "It's nonsense to say that a poster for Sainsbury's is devalued because there is a political ad next to it."

The reason the letter has resurfaced is that the Government is belatedly preparing a reply. Now that it's in power, Labour is apparently in favour of signing up to the codes, inviting tougher controls. Funny that. Expect the impasse between the two parties to result in the whole idea of reform being dropped.

■ TO BE honest, advertising regulatory bodies don't need help from political parties to look daft. The silliest recent decision was that of the Advertising Standards Authority to veto French Connection's "fcuk fashion" slogan but to allow "f.c.u.k. advertising" because "it was not the obvious play on a very obvious swear-word that the original was." Of course not.

This week it emerged that the fashion retailer has retained "f.c.u.k." as a trademark, but dropped the line in favour of "French Connection Me", which is "clearly not the obvious play on a swearword". Think about it — but not for too long. "F.c.u.k. Me" if the ASA isn't being taken for a fool.

■ IPC has set up a task force to investigate launching a rival to the phenomenally successful *FHM*. Cleverclogs readers might think it already publishes one, a shy and retiring magazine named *Loaded*.

Apparently not. *Loaded* is not about style and fashion in the way *FHM* is, goes the thinking. Talk about finding a niche within a niche. Logic and conventional wisdom suggest the market is already saturated. And Wagadon, publishers of the *Face*, *Arena* and *Frank*, is already planning the launch of the men's mag *Delux*.

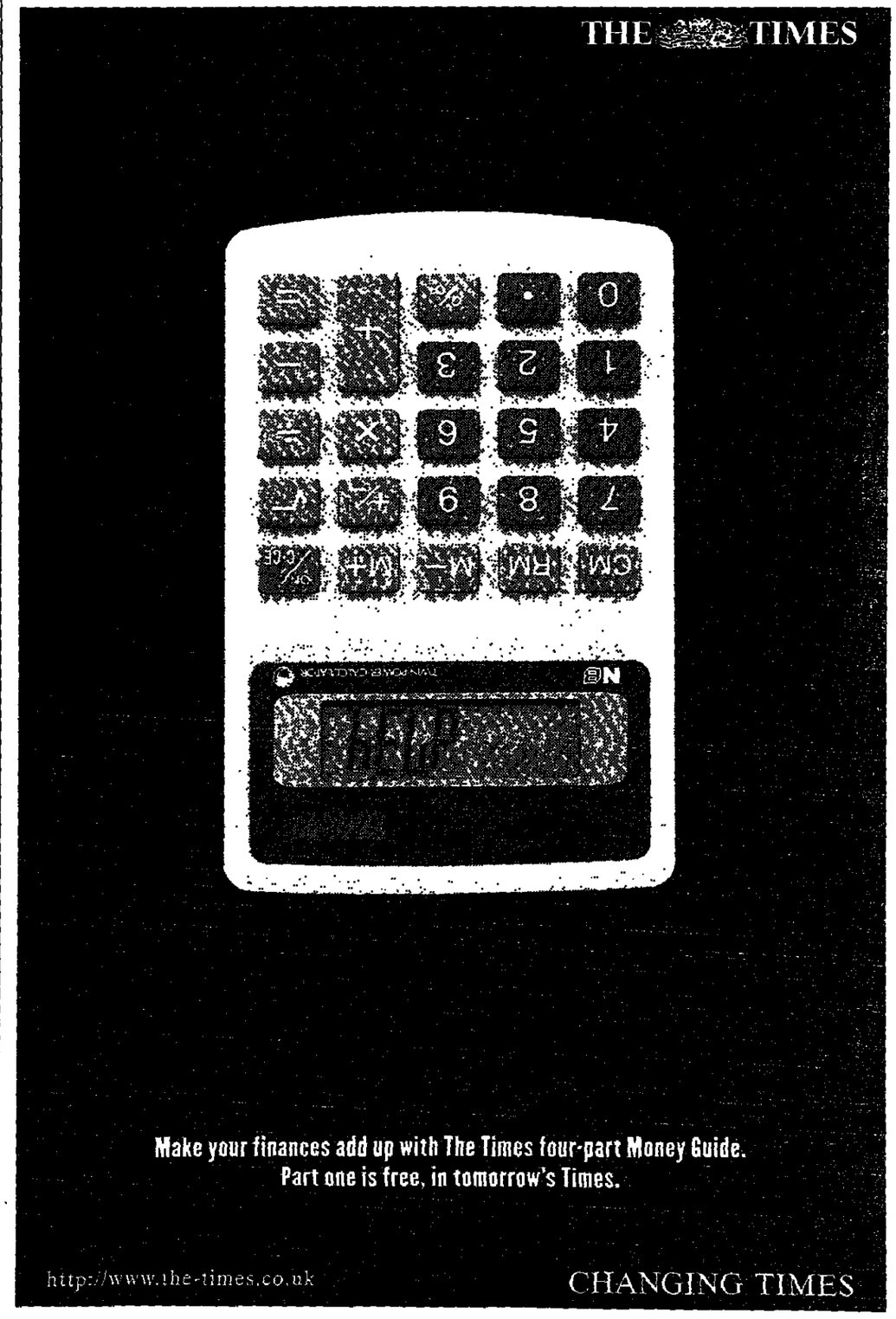
But logic and conventional wisdom count for nothing in the men's magazines sector. There was no market, it was said, until Nick Logan launched *Arena* and Condé Nast made *GQ* a success. "Younger men won't buy magazines," it was said before *Loaded* launched. "The lad bubble will burst." was the wisdom before Emap took *FHM* past 500,000 sales.

I thought *Loaded* was rubbish when it launched, and that *FHM* was merely a *Loaded* clone. So, my hunch that there's no market niche for *Delux* and IPC's new baby means they're both bound to be a roaring success.

■ THE ad industry has belatedly hit back at Equity over voiceover fees, releasing details of a survey claiming the strike is having a negligible effect.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising and the ISBA say that of 249 ads scheduled to be shot last autumn, only one was postponed and three shot abroad because of the dispute. What's more, the average cost of a voiceover has dropped from £3,000 under the 1991 agreement to £1,384 last November.

● *Stefano Hatfield is Editor of* Campaign.



HEADLINE NOTES

'I fear this will not be a change for the better'

Lord Wakeham yesterday spoke of his concern for changes in the system of press self regulation. This is the text of his speech

My Lords, I rise as Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission — and it is right for me to declare an interest. Let me say at the outset that I welcome the fact that the Government has this morning made clear that the issues I have raised surrounding the Human Rights Bill, which include the questions of prior restraint and of financial compensation, remain under active consideration. Discussions continue and no decisions have been reached.

These questions are of fundamental importance in a free society. For that reason I have this morning written to the Noble and Learned Lord, the Lord Chancellor, and to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, setting out in detail my own concerns particularly on the subject of prior restraint. I have also published the letter in view of the public interest involved.

My Lords, I have always made clear that I support incorporation. But I make no bones of the serious concerns I have about the way in which it is being done. Those concerns may be misplaced — and the Noble and Learned Lord, the Lord Chancellor, has done his level best to reassure me. On the other hand, I may be right — and, if I am, this Bill will have enormous repercussions for the system of self regulation that we have built up.

I do not say this as a threat, still less some form of blackmail. I say it because of what I see as the logical consequences of this Bill, which grafts a statutory superstructure onto our system of self regulation. As a result of that, the system will no longer be a self regulatory one. It will for the first time have a basis in statute. My Lords, the PCC was set up in 1991 principally to assist ordinary people in resolving their disputes with newspapers. It centres on a Code which covers a number of areas in which the public is right to expect high ethical standards of journalism. It was also set up as a system designed to be independent. Independent of the press. Independent of Government. And independent of the direction of the Courts. It is that independence which safeguards the interests of the public, and upholds the freedom of the press.

Self regulation is not perfect — and probably never will be — but it has achieved far more than any of those who set it up in the first place probably ever expected. It has provided a swift dispute resolution procedure — which works only because of the volunatary commitment of editors and the amicable way in which the Commission's work is conducted. And its Code — the first ever set of rules for all journalists — has also gradually raised standards among all newspapers. Standards of accuracy and speed of correction. Respect for individual privacy. Safeguards for the vulnerable — such as children, or those in hospital. And protection from harassment.

At the heart of my concerns is the fear that the way in which the Government is incorporating the Convention will change the nature of the system — and not for the better. This Bill will almost certainly make the PCC a public authority, and part of a statutory system. That, My Lords, is bound to have implications — and it will do so because it will put the Courts in the driving seat. It is they who will be able to compel us to change our structure and our powers if they deem we are not acting compatibly with the Convention. That possiblity is quite simply inconsistent with the principle of self regulation.

My main worry is what a statutory basis will do to the processes by which self regulation operates. Those processes — which are voluntary and based on common sense — are in many ways the antithesis of statute and legal supervision.

If the PCC's adjudications on matters of privacy were subject to subsequent action by the Courts, my task of seeking to resolve differences, get a public apology where appropriate, or if necessary deliver a reprimand to an erring editor, would no longer be a practical proposition. This is because voluntary co-operation by editors would open them up to subsequent action in the Courts. Material freely volunteered would become part of a legal action. From day one, therefore, the newspapers' approach to any complaint of invasion of privacy would be highly cautious and legalisitic — if indeed they chose to co-operate at all.

There are other problems arising from the legal supervision of the PCC by the Courts. First, the PCC has no powers of prior restraint — rightly in my view. Such powers of prior restraint — exercised by the PCC or by the Courts — would have serious implications for the role of a free press in a free society. However, the Courts could force it upon us. There is another problem. It has been suggested that the Courts will seek to satisfy themselves that the PCC has "effective remedies" at its disposal — including the power to award compensation. But, again, rightly in my view, the PCC has no such power and seeks none. If, therefore, the Courts say "Yes the PCC should award fines" we will have to change. But that makes a mockery of the principle of self regulation: it is no longer the newspaper industry regulating itself, it is being given direction by the Courts.

In those circumstances, the process by which we resolve 90 per cent of the thousands of complaints we receive will be put into jeopardy. Newspapers and complainants will know that we are the first round in an expensive legal battle that could end up in the High Court, with damages and costs. Newspapers will find it impossible to co-operate with us in a friendly fashion — and will deal with all complaints through lawyers. That is not the way it is meant to be. The newspaper industry set up the PCC as an independent body to resolve disputes — and gave it a powerful sanction, to demand an editor print a critical adjudication in his newspaper. It set it up to provide what the Master of the Rolls has described as a robust, common sense system of dealing with complaints. It was never intended to be a legal system.

But if the Courts are able to interfere in the way I have just described, and they will be under duty to do so, newspapers will have an entirely different system on their hands. The PCC will not be able to resolve disputes — because it will no longer work on an amicable and friendly basis. Indeed, how could it when many — particularly the rich or those set on gold digging — would use it as the first stop on the route to Court?

My concern in those circumstances is this: why should the newpaper industry continue to support the PCC? They will be part of a legal system *only* because the PCC exists. And, in turn, the PCC will be unable to carry out the function it was originally intended to do: to administer a Code and resolve disputes in a non legalistic way. *We will therefore be of no use to ordinary people — which was why we were set up — and no use to the newspaper industry, which would simply be opened up to new types of legal action because of our existence.* I hope they would find a way to continue the system — despite the changes — but it may simply be too difficult to unscramble self regulation from law. The two, in my view, do not mix. In those circumstances, the choice is not as simple as the one put forward by the Noble and Learned Lord — that the Bill will make a good system ever better. The choice is not necessarily between the PCC and a better PCC. It may be between the PCC and no PCC, or at least a seriously diminished one. And that would put at risk all the aspects of our work — by far the bulk of it — which does not relate to privacy.

My proposal was to exclude the PCC and its activities from the supervision of the Courts so that ordinary citizens could continue to complain to us without the necessity and cost of legal representation — which will be the inevitable consequence of newspapers using lawyers as part of a legal system.

Nothing in the scheme of things I propose would stop the rich, the powerful, the corrupt and those with something to hide going over our heads directly to the Courts if the Courts, encouraged by the Bill, develop the common law in the way the noble and Learned Lord suggests. So be it. But at least the vast majority of ordinary citizens will still be able to use our service to resolve complaints without the cost of using the law.

As your Lordships may recall, I had also moved proposals to deal with the problems which will arise if the rich and powerful are able to take out interlocutory injunctions against newspapers on the grounds of intrusion into privacy. Those problems are acute — and the Government has still not indicated to me how it intends to deal with the point, although I suspect Ministers are indeed aware of the issue. I do not intend to go into great detail about those matters. My views are on the record, and the issue continues to cause me great anxiety.

Let me conclude, my Lords, by saying that it may be that I am wrong in some of this. Certainly the full effects of this Bill will not be swiftly felt, probably until the final years of this Parliament. But I fear — and I repeat this is not a threat, but merely the logical consequences of this legislation — that the PCC will be undermined. The vast majority of ordinary people who do not have large financial resources to take on a newspaper — but who do so now through the PCC — will be left with nothing but the Courts, and the very real risks that go with that. I really do not want that to happen.



Lord Wakeham: "Self regulation has achieved far more than any of those who set it up ever expected"

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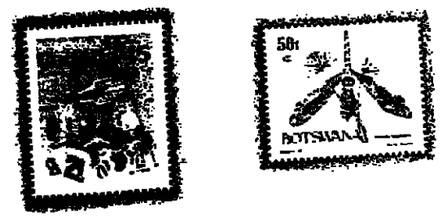
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POSTS

TEACHING IN SINGAPORE

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Teaching Posts (Group I)

(English Language, English Literature, History, Geography, Art, Music, Theatre Studies & Drama, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Home Economics).

1. The Ministry wishes to recruit classroom teachers for the following subjects to teach in secondary schools in Singapore. These teachers will be asked to prepare their students up to the GCE 'O' level examinations. The Ministry is also recruiting for a limited number of vacancies in junior colleges to teach at the GCE 'A' and possibly even 'S' level examinations:

English Language	Physics
English Literature	Chemistry
History	Biology
Geography	Mathematics
Art	Music
Theatre Studies & Drama	Home Economics

2. Applicants must possess:-

a) at least a general degree with a major in the relevant subject(s);

b) an acceptable Post Graduate Certificate in Education qualification or equivalent teacher-training qualification; and

c) at least 3 years relevant teaching experience.

3. The Ministry reserves the right to select and deploy teachers depending on the suitability of their qualifications, experience and competition.

Teaching Posts (Group II)

(Educational Psychologists)

4. The Ministry would like to invite applications from qualified Educational Psychologists to take up challenging and rewarding positions in Singapore to help in the development of special pupil programmes.

5. Applicants must possess:-

a) an honours degree in Psychology;

b) a post graduate professional qualification in Educational Psychology;

c) suitable teaching qualifications;

d) at least 2 years of teaching experience; and

e) at least 2 years of experience as an Educational Psychologist.

6. Remuneration package

Applicable to Groups I and II

a) Competitive gross salaries ranging from S$2,073 to S$5,733 per month (£756 to £2,093).

b) Annual Variable Component (AVC) as payable to serving government officers. (The amount of AVC payable is dependent on economic performance. For the last 5 years, the amount was 2 months' salary).

c) Free passage to Singapore on first appointment and return air passage on completion of contract.

d) Interest-free settling-in-loan of S$6,000 (£2,190).

e) A once-only commuted baggage allowance of S$280 (£102).

f) A once-only commuted board and lodging allowance according to marital status ranging from S$600 to S$1,200 (£219 to £438).

g) Subsidised outpatient medical benefits. Monthly employer's contribution based on 1% of monthly salary to pay for hospitalisation medical insurance and costs.

h) A tax-liable contract gratuity at 25% of the last drawn gross salary for each completed month of service on successful completion of contract.

i) Renewable contracts of three-year duration.

Additional Allowances Applicable for Group II only

j) Education allowances for 2 children below the age of 18 years for study overseas or at foreign system schools in Singapore ranging from S$500 to S$800 per month (£182 to £292). For education in Singapore Government schools, fees are at subsidised rates as payable by Singapore citizens.

k) A housing allowance according to marital status ranging from S$1,600 to S$2,100 per month (£584 to £766).

l) Home leave upon renewal of contract.

Note: £1 =S$2.7389

(The quoted exchange rate is subject to change)

7. Application forms can be obtained from:-

Teacher Recruitment Unit, c/o Contact Singapore (London), Charles House, Lower Ground Floor, 5-11 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4LR

Tel: (0171) 976-2089 Fax: (0171) 976- 2091

All completed application forms must be returned to:-

The Recruitment Unit, Ministry of Education, Kay Siang Road, Singapore 248922

8. Applications close on 21 Feb 98. Late applications will not be accepted. Interviews are scheduled to be held in London in March 98. Those who had applied in previous exercises need not re-apply.

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EDUCATION

Fred Redwood has some doubts about the Government's superteacher concept

A recipe for staff rebellion

A largely unnoticed part of last week's report on the School Teachers' Review Body postponed advice on one of the Government's key plans to improve classroom teaching. Schools will have to wait until next month to discover how "advanced skills teachers" will operate.

The review body was saying, as diplomatically as possible, that work was still needed on the details of the scheme. But is the "superteacher" a viable concept?

This new grade, outlined in last year's schools White Paper, aims to support trainee and newly qualified teachers, and to give the most talented classroom practitioners a career structure without going into administration. The chosen few could become university associate fellows or professors, and might spend two or three days a week working outside their own schools.

The scheme seems logical, but it raises the question of whether it is possible for a successful teacher to communicate teaching skills to less talented colleagues.

Joe Newman, the deputy head of Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School in Salisbury, fits the description of an "advanced skills teacher".

His chemistry examination results are legendary in the school — 60 per cent of his students have passed with A or B grades at A-level over the past five years. These results are gained from boys who represent only the top 29 per cent of the ability range. So could Mr Newman spread his teaching expertise in other Wiltshire schools?

"No," Mr Newman says. "The 'cascade' method of spreading good practice has not been thought through. For an outsider such as me to go to another school and lecture their teachers on how to teach their children is ludicrous. It would cause ill-feeling and be unproductive.

"Even if I were advising at my own school, it would be unlikely that the teaching skills of colleagues would be improved by taking notes from a talk. There is no substitute for hands-on experience. If David Blunkett is serious about this scheme he must give experienced teachers the time to watch colleagues in action, then fund the time needed for analysis and discussion. That would become a huge sum when added to the salary of the superteacher — who would be taken off timetable."

> There's no substitute for real experience

Mr Newman is convinced that there are definite qualities which make some teachers "special". Good subject knowledge must be taken for granted. But the best must also be confident, enthusiastic and have the ability to maintain control.

He says: "The best teachers have the innate ability to control the pace of lessons so that the most talented students are not bored and the less bright are not confused."

The comprehensive sector seldom receives praise for the high quality of its classroom teaching.

But at Henry Beaufort School in Winchester a recent Ofsted inspection team said: "The quality of teaching is very high indeed... teaching at times reaches a level of brilliance." There must be "advanced skills teachers" working here, so would it not be possible for them to pass on their skills to others?

David Dickinson, the head teacher, does not think the idea would work. "By identifying a superteacher, I would immediately disenfranchise the rest of the staff.

"The way to produce better quality teachers is to involve them all with staff training on an equal basis. The main reason that the quality of teaching here is so high is that all staff have contributed to our in-service training scheme, designed to improve classroom performance."

This staff training at Henry Beaufort, which began in 1990, was carefully planned. First, at training meetings teachers described the teaching techniques that had worked well for them. The English department outlined how it ran group research and reported back as a classroom exercise. The Science department was fascinated and adapted it to fit its needs. The Humanities department described how it used role-play. With their interest sparked, teachers then gave up free lessons to watch one another teach. Classroom groupings were analysed to find why troublesome pupils worked well in certain settings but not in others.

The training scheme bore fruit — since 1990 the school's percentage of five passes at GCSE A-C has improved from 53 per cent to 67 per cent. But Mr Dickinson is convinced that if it had been led by a superteacher, instead of being a co-operative effort, it would have failed.

"I have many extremely talented teachers in the school, who teach in a wide variety of styles," he says. "Can you imagine the ill-feeling if I singled out just one of that number as an advanced skills teacher, thereby reducing his or her teaching hours and, at the same time, sanctioning a pay rise?"



TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Robin Williams in *Dead Poets Society*: can such "superteachers" be created at school?

Don't fetter my mind to a conveyor belt

Peter Martin, an Oxford student, fears that free thought may suffer if assessment replaces finals

Changes heralded in the Oxford Commission of Inquiry report published last week could mean a sea change in undergraduate work and a stifling of the experimentation for which the university is famous.

The commission proposed changes to some of the fundamental features of an Oxford education. Sir Peter North, the chairman, says it was not part of the fashionable trend to review higher education, but a timely examination of how the University could be improved. But as an engineering science student at Oxford preparing to take my finals this summer, I believe some of the changes would make gaining a degree a conveyor-belt process with students rewarded for doing as they are told rather than for showing initiative.

The type of university education that inspired me to work hard for my A levels is summed up in a 1964 report by the University Grants Commission, "it is the function of a university education, not simply to equip [a student] with expert knowledge, but also, and even more importantly, to teach him to think for himself, to work on his own, and thus to achieve a decisive stage of his journey to maturity".

One of the central changes proposed, which will remove this emphasis from a degree's function, is the scrapping of finals, based on intensive examination over a period of two to three weeks at the end of a degree, and replacing them with assessments of equal weight over every year after the first year. There will also be a move away from assessing by exam, towards the use of course work.

The commission notes that finals "assess attainment of knowledge and the use of problem-solving and analytical skills" and "help students to develop the ability to work effectively under intense pressure". But it says finals are "susceptible to favouring those who have mastered 'exam technique' " and discriminate against those "who do not work well under pressure". Ultimately the assessment method used will be determined by what qualities society demands from its intellectual elite. But this discussion fails to consider the important, and unique, period of intellectual freedom that students can enjoy when they are not subject to continual assessments.



It would be hard to assess students any more thoroughly than is done already. I have had two college exams at the start of each term, university exams at the end of my first year, meetings with the college provost at the end of each term and the close supervision of tutors throughout my degree. These have provided valuable feedback on how I, and my work, have progressed. Having done pretty badly in some of them, I am glad that none will count towards my final degree.

In fact, it has been through making those mistakes that I have learnt the most. At times I have made mistakes in my approach to understanding a topic. Performing badly in a test alerted me and allowed me to correct them. For some periods I have purposely neglected work I had been set to concentrate on the parts I found most exciting. Low marks in some exams mask the fact that I developed a passion for other subjects.

With continual assessment, students would not be free to learn and experiment in these ways. We would be subject to a considerable limitation on developing independent and original thought. Students will worry about scoring well in the next exam or piece of course work and not take the risk of being penalised for experimenting.

Given that the commission's proposals are not part of the modularisation and semesterisation trend that has taken place across higher education, it should be considered a pity to introduce continuous assessment without consideration of the assessment-free life of which future students will be deprived.

Creativity is the key



Sir Simon Rattle and Benjamin Zephaniah: the conductor and the dub poet are both members of the committee

Ken Robinson on a new scheme to instil an enjoyment of the arts and sciences in students

THE new National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education, whose members include figures as diverse as Sir Simon Rattle and Benjamin Zephaniah, will review provision for the creative and cultural development of all young people in formal and informal education.

The committee is a new initiative to recognise the importance of the arts and creativity in education, jointly backed by the Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett, and the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith.

It brings together leading specialists from the worlds of science, business, the arts and education — people who have developed their potential for creativity in their own careers.

Last summer, the Government's White Paper on school standards, *Excellence in Schools*, emphasised the need to unlock the potential of every young person and argued that Britain's economic prosperity depends on achieving that goal. We have to improve literacy and numeracy, and we need to have a broad and motivating education that recognises the different talents of all young people.

Every parent, teacher and educator recognises that raising standards in literacy and numeracy are an important foundation of education, but nobody is suggesting this is the whole of education. Developing other aspects of young people's intellectual and creative capabilities is vital. From the 1940s until relatively recently, good academic qualifications virtually guaranteed a good job. Jobs were plentiful in the more traditional industries. But the needs of business and industry are changing. For many people, the future is in the so-called knowledge-based industries such as financial services, software, communications and education itself. The creative industries, with exports worth £10 billion, are estimated to contribute about £50 billion a year to the economy but these wider changes also affect many other forms of work. As world economies change, business leaders continue to emphasise those high academic standards. They also see an equal need to promote young people's powers of creativity, innovation and communication.

An essential step in developing human resources will be to define what they really are. While academic ability relates particularly to the essential skills of verbal and mathematical reasoning, there is now powerful scientific evidence that young people have many different forms of intellectual ability, including visual, spatial, physical, personal and musical intelligences. These can be just as important to their educational development as academic intelligence. The richness of intelligence is obvious outside education in areas such as science, technology, the arts, religion and many industries. None relies solely on verbal and mathematical skills — and many require different intellectual skills.

One of the challenges is to raise young people's motivation. One way is to build on their strengths and differences. It is right to expect young people to achieve minimum targets in literacy and numeracy, but it is also important to develop the wider intellectual abilities of those young people who may initially show weaker skills in verbal and mathematical reasoning.

Schools, colleges and universities tend to treat the arts and sciences as wholly different. Popular stereotypes are of the arts as subjective and creative, the sciences as clinical and routine. Neither is necessarily true. Creative processes in the sciences and arts have much deal in common. We will want to look closely at the relationships between science, the arts and technology and the implications for teaching and research at all educational levels.

THE ISSUES that face education are not only economic but also cultural. We live in times of unprecedented social change, partly because of the forces of creativity in science, technology and the arts. As the pace of change quickens, helping young people to engage with cultural change and with understanding other cultures is a growing priority. We will be looking at the role of education in the arts and humanities in these respects, alongside science and technology.

In the past few weeks, the Government has made important changes to literacy and numeracy in primary schools. The work of this new group is not a reaction to the debate surrounding those changes. It has been in preparation for some months with the Government and reflects the concern which Mr Blunkett and I have expressed for some time. It is part of a longer-term process of ensuring that education faces the creative and cultural challenges of the millennium.

● *The author is Professor of Arts and Education at the University of Warwick and Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education.*

POSTS

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(University of London)

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The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and University College London Medical School will be unified within University College London by 1999. Preliminary enquiries should be directed either to Professor Leon Fine at UCL Medical School (telephone 0171 209 6187) or to Professor Arie Zuckerman, the Dean, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine (telephone 0171 830 2762).

Further details of the post and a job description may be obtained from the Personnel Office, Rowland Hill Street, RFHSM, London NW3 2PF (tel: 0171-794 0500 ext. 4262). Applicants should submit SEVEN copies of their curriculum vitae (please include seven copies of any covering letter) by 14th March 1998. Please quote reference number: MED/PRF/182.

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The Fellow will hold the title and undertake the full duties of a University (CUF) Lecturer. No election will be made by the College unless the University's General Board of the Faculties and the Law Board confirm their willingness to confer the title. No separate application for the title is required.

Further particulars should be obtained from: Miss Fiona Nicks, Academic Office, St. Hilda's College, Oxford OX4 1DY. Tel: (01865) 276816, Fax (01865) 276816, e-mail: college.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk. web site http://www.sthildas.ox.ac.uk.
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New season to finish with French connection

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE room where the first division season was launched at Dewsbury this week had been double-booked with an Ann Summers lingerie party. Flimsy extras and a French tickler, if that is how *Le Treize Tournoi* can be described, all feature in the campaign.

A top-five play-off and grand final over four weekends in September to determine the champion club, similar to that introduced by the Super League, will be followed by a month-long Anglo-French tournament and final in Bordeaux on November 1. It represents a longer and potentially more lucrative season than the truncated 1997 version.

Starting on Sunday, the 11 teams will meet one another three times. The grand final winner will not be promoted automatically, as the Super League will be a franchise competition from 1999. Clubs will have to meet strict off-field standards, although facilities at some first division grounds are better than those among the Super League.

Few clubs can match the facilities that Widnes Vikings now boast at the redeveloped, all-seat Naughton Park, officially the Halton Stadium. Leigh Centurions, too, have brought Hilton Park up to date and Featherstone Rovers now have one of the best grounds in the Rugby Football League.

The question facing clubs is whether they want to jeopardise their positions by striving to get into the Super League, which has already killed off one club, Oldham Bears, and left another, Workington Town, impoverished and embedded in the second division.

Bob Scott, general manager of the First and Second Division Clubs' Association, said: "There's a realism that Super League isn't for everyone. To try and maintain a club in Super League is generally beyond the means of a lot of first division clubs. We've seen the effect when clubs have left Super League.

"We've got to encourage those clubs that want to get up into Super League and undoubtedly would have the ability to compete, but there will be a move by a lot of clubs to say that they would rather play in an exciting, vibrant competition where it's not going to stretch finances and they're not in danger of oblivion if they don't succeed."

Nowhere is the new mood of realism more keenly felt than by Keighley Cougars, whose takeover by Hami Patel, a London-based financier, has ended the club's 15-month spell in administration. The majority of players have reverted to part-time contracts and the mood in the Yorkshire town is once more upbeat.

The decision by several Super League clubs to abandon their Alliance teams has increased the pool of talent available. David Mycoe, from Sheffield Eagles, along with two classy Australians, Matt Fuller and Garen Casey, are powerful acquisitions by Wakefield Trinity.

Featherstone are considerably strengthened, as are Whitehaven Warriors, while Hunslet Hawks and Swinton Lions have also done some solid recruiting.

A reshuffle of the lower divisions spared Widnes relegation last season, while Hull Kingston Rovers, another famous club fallen on hard times, have lost virtually their entire squad from last season.

☐ St Helens have been refused clearance to sign Jamie Olejnik, one of several Australians who played on emergency work permits for Paris Saint-Germain last year.

Going from strength to strength

John Goodbody on the women's world champion who fights men

GARETH WATKINS



Howey's hard work on fitness and stamina paid off with a world title in Paris last year

Had Kate Howey taken up women's rugby instead of judo, she would have made an excellent centre threequarter. Weighing 70kg, she has explosive aggression and was a superb sprinter as a schoolgirl. She is strong enough to lift 145kg on her back, the weight of a decent-sized sumo wrestler, sit down as far as a chair and then get up again.

Her favourite throw looks like a front-on rugby tackle, in which she scoops up both of her opponent's legs and then dumps her on her back. "It is amazing when it works," Howey, the world middleweight champion, said. "Once it went so well that I nearly knocked both of us out."

While the England rugby team are at the new Stade de France tomorrow, Howey will be fighting on the other side of the capital in the Tournoi de Paris, the first important international tournament of the year.

Last year, Howey was the only British woman to win a world title in any Olympic sport, a feat she achieved in Paris and which brought her second place, behind Denise Lewis, the athlete, in a sportswoman of the year poll.

Howey, 26, from Andover, took up judo at the age of seven, joining her local club as a present from her father, David, an instructor. When her younger brother was being bullied at school, it was she who leapt to his defence and quickly upended the tormentor.

She became a world junior champion and then won an Olympic bronze medal at the age of 19 in Barcelona. After finishing second in the world championships in 1993, her career became becalmed in 1995. She describes the period as "two years in the wilderness". She failed to get any medal in Atlanta. "I was terribly disappointed," she said. "It was one of the lowest points of my life."

Part of the reason was the absence of Roy Inman, who lost his position as Great Britain team manager after the Barcelona Olympics. However, just over a year ago, Inman began working with Howey again and the impact was immediate.

"Half the battle in coaching is knowing the competitor," Inman said. "She needed extra cardiovascular work because she was known as a first-minute fighter. If she hadn't thrown her opponent early on, her stamina and confidence would start running out. But now she is as dangerous in the last minute as she is in the first."

The pair meet three times a week and study videos to work out how to counter the moves of specific opponents. Four evenings a week, she travels round the south of England for practice sessions, against men as well as women. "Sometimes, if men cannot throw me, they lose their rag and I get battered," Howey said.

Since the world championships, the weight categories have changed. Howey has gone from middleweight (66kg) to light-heavyweight (72kg) and then back last year to middleweight. The new middleweight limit is 70kg and Howey has had to put on some extra poundage. This weekend, she will renew her battle with several former light-heavyweights, such as Ulla Werbrouck, of Belgium, the Olympic and European champion.

Inman believes that Howey now has the variety of throws to upset anyone. "Kate is better than ever," Inman said. She will need to be. She is world champion and all her opponents will see her as the woman to beat.

CRICKET

Powell gets instant chance to impress

FROM SIMON WILDE IN MATARA

JONATHAN POWELL, one of the members of the England under-19 team that won the Youth World Cup, is expected to play for England A in the second international match against Sri Lanka A starting here today. Powell, 18, has played only one first-class match.

"Apart from the World Cup semi-final and final against Australia and New Zealand, this will be the biggest game of my life," Powell, who arrived here on Wednesday from South Africa, said. He and Owais Shah flew to London with the youth team before catching an onward flight. "There was a bit of a welcoming party. It was nice to show off the trophy," he said.

Powell, an off spinner, had a long bowl in practice yesterday and Mike Gatting, the England A coach, passed on observations from Keith Fletcher, who works with Powell at Essex and watched him in the World Cup on television.

Powell, who did not have any dramatic success in the World Cup, was perhaps the most unexpected A-team choice and he himself thought he was the victim of a "wind-up" when he was telephoned at home with the news.

His one match for the county was on a flat pitch at Colchester, the game in which Peter Such set a record for overs bowled in a championship innings. Powell's figures were one for 109.

Shah will not play today. England have brought in Sales for Flintoff and Nash for Read. The last place will go to Brown or Cosker, depending on the pitch.

☐ St Helen's, Swansea, will stage county championship cricket next season, thanks to the efforts of the West Wales branch of the Glamorgan supporters' club. The local council refused to provide a £10,000 guarantee for the four-day match with Surrey and accompanying Axa Life League game in July. But the supporters' group, known as the Baleoniers, has succeeded in raising the money.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Silk Cut in collision at night

■ **SAILING:** Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, on *Silk Cut* reported yesterday that the boat had hit something during the night, resulting in a crack in the hull at the bow (Edward Gorman writes). The damage was not thought to be serious, though further assessments were being carried out as *Silk Cut* continued south on her fifth day out of Auckland.

Paul Standbridge's *Toshiba* was once again leading, by eight miles from Gunnar Krantz on *Swedish Match* with *Silk Cut* in fifth place.

Tracy Edwards and her all-women crew on *Royal & SunAlliance* were a day ahead of the non-stop round-the-world record schedule, having covered 699 miles in their first 48 hours. However, after averaging 18 knots in her first 24 hours, *Royal & SunAlliance* could manage only 10.4 knots in the second 24-hour period in light winds.

■ **GOLF:** Ernie Els took an early lead in the South African Open championship yesterday with an opening round of 64 at the Durban Country Club. Els, starting off the 10th tee, went to the turn in 31, with five birdies, then picked up three more.

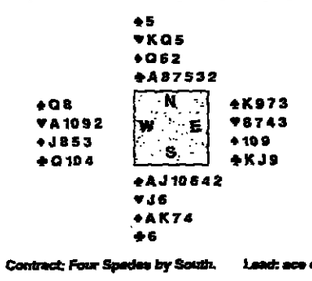
■ **CYCLING:** Ian Hallam, who won Olympic, World, and Commonwealth Games medals as a 4,000 metres pursuit rider during the 1970s, makes his comeback to road racing at the age of 49 on Sunday. He rides in the traditional opening event, the 38-mile Peris Pedal race at Meonstoke, Hampshire, which he won 24 years ago.

■ **RUGBY UNION:** Rees Stephens, the former Wales and British Isles forward, has died, aged 75. Stephens played 32 times for his country between 1947 and 1956, captained Wales on six occasions and played twice for the Lions in 1950.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Although card play in bridge is mainly about playing the whole hand rather than specific suit combinations, it is important to be familiar with some of the more common holdings. The trump suit in today's Refresher is frequently misplayed.



Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ace of hearts

West continues at trick two with a second heart. Declarer's problem is simply to avoid losing more than two trump tricks. If the suit breaks 3-3 there is no problem and if it breaks 5-1 there is no way declarer can succeed, so the concern is the 4-2 breaks.

So when declarer leads a trump from dummy and East plays low, which card should he play? If he plays the jack, that will bring in the suit for two losers if East started with K Q x x, but will lose threee tricks if West started with H x (where H is K or Q). If he plays the ace and a low spade from hand, that wins against the latter holdings but loses to K Q x x with East. Note that either play succeeds against H x with East, and either play loses at most two tricks to K Q bare with West. By the way, it is never right to play the ace and then jack — if the suit is 3-3, ace and a low one loses only two tricks, and when the suit is 4-2 ace and then jack ensures three losers.

Thus the question is, which doubleton is West more likely to hold, x x or H x. There are 15 different doubletons that can be selected from the six cards K Q 9 8 7 3. One way of seeing that is to note that the first card can be chosen in six ways and the second in five ways; but that counts say K 7 and 7 K as separate holdings. So the total number of ways is 6 x 5 divided by two, which is 15. It is well worth writing out the doubletons if you don't follow this reasoning.

The number of plain doubletons is six (the number of ways of selecting two cards from the four small ones, ie 4 x 3 divided by two). You can pick an honour in two ways and a small card in four ways, so there are eight honour doubletons (H x). (The combination that brings the total up to 15 is K Q bare.) That means that playing ace and another is better in the ratio of eight to six to lose only two tricks.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Schools chess

The final total of the UK Chess Challenge for British schoolchildren is a record 33,386 players, from 986 schools. The total from last year has jumped by over 9,000 while the number of schools involved has increased by over 250. The county which has entered the most players is Surrey with 4,131.

Wijk aan Zee

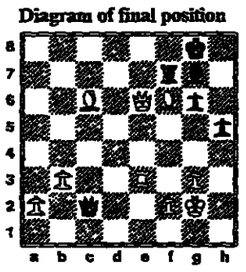
Two more games from the important tournament at Wijk aan Zee. The full crosstable will be given next Monday.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Judit Polgar
Wijk aan Zee
January 1998

Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	g6
3	c4	Bg7
4	g3	0-0
5	Bg2	d5
6	0-0	dxc4
7	Na3	Na6
8	Nxc4	c5
9	b3	Bf5
10	Bb2	Be4
11	Rc1	Rc8
12	Qd2	Qd5
13	Rfd1	Qh5
14	h3	cxd4
15	Bxd4	Rfd8
16	Nce5	Rxc1
17	Qxc1	Bxf3
18	Bxf3	Qxh3
19	Bxa7	Ra8
20	Bd4	Rc8
21	Qa3	Re8
22	Bxb7	Nc7
23	Bc6	Rf8
24	Qxe7	Ne6
25	Bc3	Qf5
26	Rd3	h5
27	Rf3	Qe2
28	Nd7	Qd1 –
29	Kg2	Qxe2
30	Re3	Qc2
31	Qxe6	Rd7
32	Bxd6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Judit Polgar
Black: Paul van der Sterren
Wijk aan Zee
January 1998

Petroff Defence

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	d4	Nxe4
4	Bd3	d5
5	Nxe5	Nd7
6	Nxd7	Bxd7
7	0-0	Be7
8	c4	Nf6
9	Nc3	Be6
10	c5	0-0
11	Bf4	c6
12	b4	Qd7
13	Qc2	g6
14	b5	Rfe8
15	a4	Nh5
16	Be3	Bd8
17	a5	a6
18	bxa6	bxa6
19	Na4	Bxa5
20	Nb6	Bxb6
21	cxb6	Bf5
22	Bxf5	Qxf5
23	Rfc1	Qxc2
24	Rxc2	a5
25	Rxc6	Reb8
26	Bh6	Ng7
27	Rac1	Ne8
28	Bf4	Rb7
29	Rc8	Rxc8
30	Rxc8	Kf8
31	Bd6+	Kg7
32	Rxe8	Rxb6
33	Bf8+	Kf6
34	g3	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

Telford aim to move clear of the danger

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

NOWHERE in an afternoon of make-or-break Vauxhall Conference matches tomorrow will the stakes be higher than at Bucks Head, where Telford United take on Kidderminster Harriers.

Telford, ever-present since the Conference was founded in 1979, were pushed into the relegation positions by Kettering Town's revival a fortnight ago. They can now climb clear by beating Kidderminster, second last season but the Conference's greatest underachievers this season.

Jimmy Mullen, the Telford manager for the past two months, strengthened his side's attack yesterday by signing Phil Eastwood on loan from his former club, Burnley.

"The club are very ambitious," Mullen said. "They want to become a Football League club but in the short term I'm determined to ensure we stay up. I've got to get new faces to bolster the squad."

Goalscoring has been Telford's main problem. "Our best victory since I've been here was against Leek and all three goals were scored by defenders," Mullen said. Of the strikers, Brian Gray, top scorer with seven Conference goals, is serving his second suspension since Mullen's arrival and Tim Langford returned to training this week after a cruciate operation. Out of necessity, Mullen has turned Jim Bentley from defender to striker.

Adding spice to the occasion tomorrow will be the return of three former Harriers, Jon Purdie, Simeon Hodson and Neil Cartwright.

Rushden and Diamonds, who are fourth, have the chance to confirm the seriousness of their title aspirations at home to Halifax Town, the leaders, while fifth-placed Hednesford Town, unbeaten at home, will seek swift revenge against Cheltenham Town, who lie third and who beat them 1-0 at Whaddon Road three weeks ago.

SNOOKER

Williams reveals sorrow in victory

BY PHIL YATES

MARK WILLIAMS, grieving over the death of a favourite uncle, betrayed his emotions after beating Anthony Hamilton 6-3 to reach the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

"He spent so much time coming to tournaments with me when I was a junior, but I know deep down that he wouldn't have wanted me to withdraw," Williams, who by fulfilling his engagement against Hamilton was unable to attend the funeral, said.

Having overcome John Higgins, the world No 2, in the previous round, Hamilton's performance was a disappointment. "I allowed my composure to go," he said.

Leading 63-0 in the second frame, Hamilton feathered the cue-ball when sighting a pink. Williams stole it on the black with a 60 clearance to lead 2-0, but was pegged back to 2-2.

However, Hamilton became increasingly prone to error and a bizarre incident in the ninth frame indicated how badly his concentration was wavering. Having simultaneously potted a red and a green, Hamilton, who had left the white under a baulk cushion, was asked by Williams to play again. He picked up the white, placed it in the "D" and, of course, a foul shot was called by Alan Chamberlain, the referee.

Williams was left to await Ronnie O'Sullivan or Steve Davis for a place in the final.

Stephen Hendry, the world No 1, and Ken Doherty, who replaced him as world champion, attempt to join Williams in the semi-finals today with the former lacking a fine edge of confidence and the latter handicapped by the burden of expectation. Hendry meets Nigel Bond and Doherty plays James Wattana.

Results, page 53

BOXING

Tyson faces court bout over break with King

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MIKE TYSON is heading for a court battle if he continues his attempt to split with his promoter, Don King. He is still under contract for four more contests for King and Showtime, the American cable television company.

Tyson has not yet dismissed King, as has been reported, but he issued a statement yesterday confirming that he intended taking all legal and financial matters relating to his career out of King's hands. The statement was released from the offices of Jeff Wald, the Los Angeles music entrepreneur and George Foreman's promoter.

The statement read: "I have hired new attorneys and accountants who will report directly to me. I have formed Mike Tyson Enterprises. I am in the process of moving forward with my life."

There was no mention of the financial and tax problems that Tyson was said to be facing or of ending King's contract.

King, who is certain to go to court if Tyson breaks their contract, said: "I'm surprised at Jeff Wald getting involved with Mike. I have always acted in Mike's interests. I have nothing to hide. I have paid him a net $127 million (around £78 million). But I understand Mike's frustration at not being able to fight. I'm sure it'll all be sorted out satisfactorily very soon."

HOCKEY

East Grinstead trying to set record straight

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

EAST GRINSTEAD, runners-up last year to St Albans, are hoping to go one better when the men's indoor club championship reaches its climax at Crystal Palace tonight.

St Albans bowed out in the preliminary round, leaving six teams in contention. Teddington, Doncaster and Reading form pool A, East Grinstead, Hull and Old Loughtonians make up pool B. The winners of each pool will qualify for the final.

Reading started playing indoor hockey only last season and qualified at the first attempt. With Hull and Doncaster presenting a strong northern challenge, the event is wide open.

David Luckes, who recently underwent a knee operation, will not keep goal for East Grinstead at Crystal Palace, but is in the outdoor squad for the National League premier division match on Sunday at Cannock, where he hopes to prove his fitness for the Azlan Shah Tournament in Malaysia at the end of this month.

Southgate can expect a hard match at home to Guildford, who are battling for survival. The Germany international forward, Eiko Roit, who is to join Southgate, will be available for the last five league matches, including the game with Reading, the title-holders, who should win at home to Beeston on Sunday.

In the women's premiership, not even the loss of Karen Brown (hamstring) should foil the runaway leaders, Slough, at struggling Sutton Coldfield.

CRICKETLINE
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WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GRAPHEME
a. Letters/symbols
b. Ruled paper
c. Defacement

PANDIATONICISM
a. Hero worship
b. Obsession with pet animals
c. Musical technique

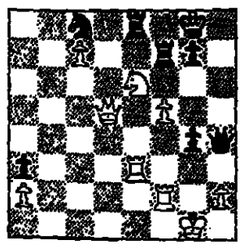
CEMENTITE
a. Industrial adhesive
b. A component of steel
c. Dental filling

CLOYER
a. A welder's mate
b. A sweet "mixer"
c. An old felon

Answers on page 54

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Azmaiparashvili — Aleksandrov, Groningen 1997. Can you spot White's immediate killing blow?



Solution on page 54

مكذا من الاجل

RACING: CONDITIONAL RIDER FRACTURES COLLARBONE ON FIRST RIDE BACK AFTER ARREST

Aspell puts brave face on painful return

By Chris McGrath

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Aspell is a study of concentration as he prepares for his comeback ride on New Rising in yesterday's Michael McManus Novices' Hurdle at Towcester

EVEN in the fraction of a second it took to complete the journey between his saddle and the soil of Northamptonshire, it might have occurred to Leighton Aspell that a Jockey Club licence is only one piece of paperwork essential to the National Hunt rider. The other is surely a certificate of lunacy.

The young jockey yesterday sustained a fractured collarbone after New Rising, a first ride in public since his arrest last week, fell at the fifth flight of the Michael McManus Novices' Hurdle, won by his more fancied stable companion, Soloman. Along with Jamie Osborne and Dean Gallagher, Aspell had only prised his licence back from the Jockey Club on Wednesday after its temporary suspension.

All three had been released without charge by police investigating allegations of doping and race-fixing, on bail until April 29. Nor had they been charged with any breach of Jockey Club rules, yet the licensing committee had confessed itself fretful about public confidence in the integrity of racing.

After a week of "soundings", however — and a week of legal and emotional pressure from the racing community — there was a sudden change of heart, and the jockeys were permitted to resume their trade.

Osborne is at present nursing a complicated wrist injury, and Gallagher chose to wait until Sandown tomorrow, leaving the bold duty of business as usual to the youngest of the three. The Jockeys' Association secretary, Michael Caulfield, breezily insisted that it was "just a normal Thursday at Towcester". On a bleak afternoon at this charming course, in the very heart of England, a throng of cameramen around the weighing room begged to differ.

Aspell, too, departed from his routine by being spirited to his peg via the ambulance room. If not exactly an ordinary day at the office, however, it did not take long for it to turn into a bad one.

Aspell, 21, smiled nervously as he emerged for his only ride. Unfortunately, he returned on foot, seemingly unhurt as he pursued the horse to where it stood steaming for the inspection of its anxious owner, Bill Naylor. "He decided to take a long one," Aspell said. "He stepped on it, and fell right on his head. But it was wonderful to be back on a horse."

The poor fellow's feelings had not been reciprocated by his partner, however, who gave him a thorough kicking. Once returned to the sanctuary of the weighing room, an ice-pack was soon applied to his right shoulder — and the course doctor became morosely confident that X-rays would confirm the collarbone to be broken. In which case, Aspell faces "a few weeks" off, thanks in part to the echo of an injury earlier this season.

Josh Gifford, his employer and the trainer of New Rising, responded to this latest reverse with wry humour. Asked what instructions he had given Aspell beforehand, he promptly retorted: "Jump off at halfway." It was the facetious prelude to another fierce defence of his protege. "I think the whole thing is absolutely laughable," the Findon trainer said. "When they [the police] started knocking down doors and wrapping them in chains, I fully expected them to have at least murdered someone. I think the whole thing is a fairy story."

Whatever the facts behind the trauma of recent days, yesterday offered a salutary reminder to everyone immersed in scandalous theory. If the murky fringe of racing offers an opportunity for dishonour and cowardice, the routine could not be a more different business.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Illuminate
(1.40 Lingfield Park)

Illuminate is potentially well handicapped and should be suited by today's shorter trip. He led turning for home over 2¾ miles at Huntingdon last time, but failed to stay and finished third.

Next best: Eminent
(2.50 Southwell)

Clarke injects new lease of life into Brighton



Clarke: commitment

A BRIGHT future was yesterday forecast for Brighton racecourse after the company Northern Racing acquired a long leasehold interest in the track. The company, headed by Stan Clarke, owns Uttoxeter and Newcastle and the new agreement has secured the future of the seaside course.

Provision has been made for regular liaison between Northern Racing and the former trustees of the track regarding future development. Brighton Council has retained an interest in the new business "Brighton Race Course Co. Ltd" with a 19 per cent shareholding and two councillors will be appointed to the racecourse board.

Clarke, who left hospital on Wednesday after back trouble, was unable to attend yesterday's press conference at the course. But Paul Doona, a director of Uttoxeter and Newcastle, said: "We took over Uttoxeter in 1988 and made a £5 million investment in the course, which has since won nine best racecourse awards. Since we took over Newcastle in 1995 we have invested over £3million. We are confident we will make similar investments here — the plan is long term."

Rod Street, general manager at Uttoxeter and born in Brighton himself, added: "We are aiming for maximum fields, the best level of prize-money and getting the top names, like Frankie Dettori, here. We are also committed to providing quality ground."

He added: "Sponsorship is a big issue too. We are looking to build races up. Brighton has a long history going back to 1783 and the Prince Regent was a regular visitor. There were crowds of 60,000 back in the 1950s, but since then Brighton has just slipped away in the leisure market."

David McAllister, clerk of the course at Uttoxeter and Newcastle, said: "The present watering system is not ideal. We aim to bring in an irrigator — used at Newcastle — and will water the whole one and a half miles of the course. With careful husbandry, we can improve the course, which only has about 3½ inches of soil on chalk.

"Added prize-money last year at Brighton was £420,000. This season it will be £500,000. There was once a Derby trial run here, as the course resembles Epsom. I am pretty certain we will be reinstating it, but it will not be in 1998."

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.40 Murray's Million
2.10 Champleve
2.40 Borazon
3.10 Hever Golf Diamond
3.40 Miss Diskin
4.10 **SIMONS CASTLE** (nap)
4.40 Frontier Flight

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.40 *PALACE PARADE*.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
7.30AM INSPECTION

1.40 HEDDON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,388: 2m 3f 110yd) (18 runners)

1 120-020 BRUSH ME UP 69 (S) (Mrs C Waters) P R Webber 6-11-10 N Williamson 81
2 164 GUEST ALLIANCE 17F (S) (Ballard (1834) Ltd) G L Moore 6-11-3 Mr Batchelor (7) 122
3 5525-03 WENTWORTH 36 (B) (Miss J Newell) G Thorner 6-11-2 B Powell 108
4 04P PERSIAN BOY 13 (K Manley) D Sherwood 6-10-13 J A McCarthy 87
5 63433-0 SUPER RAPIER 21 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-10-13 R Thornton 90
6 50-3304 SHARIAKANNDI 9 (S Clough) J King 6-10-11 M A Fitzgerald 111
7 4/305 DARK ROMANCE 16 (A Goldson) Z C Davison 8-10-9 R Dunwoody 100
8 00-P324 YOUNG TYCOON 21 (A Darlington) A J Wilson 7-10-9 S Hogan (3) 96
9 024-615 ADILOV 15F (S) (T Mitchell) J Bridger 6-10-7 J Goldstein (7) 106
10 000P-03 MURRAY'S MILLION 20 (Cotswold Connection) J Smith 6-10-6 T J Murphy 95
11 0-2P06F THE KERRY LEDGEND 38 (T Myles) N Chance 5-10-5 Mr S Durack (5) 90
12 00-505 GALLANT TAFFY 37 (M Jones) M Pipe 6-10-4 A P McCoy 85
13 5P4-53 ILLUMINATE 16 (J Coury) D O'Brien 5-10-3 J Culloty 108
14 060 BUCK BOARD 20 (R Brazington) R Brazington 8-10-3 R Massey (3)
15 42-43P1 PALACE PARADE 11 (G) (Bateford Tool Ltd) A Hobbs 8-10-3 (7ex) A Thornton
16 44-05P0 BIGWIG 11 (B) (Mrs E Kernan) G L Moore 5-10-0 J R Kavanagh 77
17 04P-00P TUDOR TOWN 20 (P Purdy) P Purdy 10-10-0 C Rae (7) 81
18 00560-0 THE BIZZO 9 (J Panvert) J Panvert 7-10-0 C Llewellyn 86

Long handicap: Bigwig 9-8, Tudor Town 9-5, The Bizzo 9-0.

BETTING: 6-1 Illuminate, 7-1 Gallant Taffy, 8-1 Guest Alliance, Murray's Million, Palace Parade, 10-1 Wentworth, Shariakanndi, Young Tycoon, 12-1 others.

1997: EQUITY'S DARLING 5-10-6 P Hide (20-1) D O'Brien 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Brush Me Up 56l 16th of 21 to Country Beau in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). Guest Alliance 36l 4th of 7 to Fadadet V in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft) with Adilov (3lb better off) a distance 6th. Wentworth 26l 3rd of 12 to Native Charm in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft). Persian Boy pulled up in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Shariakanndi 19l 4th of 9 to Belmorebruno in amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, good to soft). Dark Romance beaten a distance 5th of 11 to Bright Flame in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Young Tycoon 8¾l 4th of 15 to Royal Arctic in novice handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft) with Super Rapier (1lb better off) 56l 8th. Adilov 8¾l 5th of 11 to North End Lady in selling hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Murray's Million 6¾l 3rd of 17 to Caballus in novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, heavy). Gallant Taffy 38l 5th of 16 to Classic Eagle in maiden hurdle at Catterick (2m, good). Illuminate 3¼l 3rd of 19 to Daru in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Palace Parade beat Cambo 7l in 22-runner selling handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good) with Bigwig (levels) 52l 13th.

ILLUMINATE has sound prospects on his Huntingdon third

2.10 ADVENTURE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,532: 2m) (5 runners)

1 P5-3431 MOUSE BIRD 9 (CD,S) (O Pierce) D Gandolfo 8-11-8 R Dunwoody
2 P0/62/5 COOLIMNY 9 (Champ Chicken Co Ltd) D McCain 9-11-2 S Wynne 78
3 3052-04 FLOW BACK 9 (B) (D Leon) G Enright 6-11-2 A Thornton —
4 3F-P315 GIPSY GEOF 69 (B,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-11-2 R Thornton —
5 F-81113 CHAMPLEVE 27 (S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-10-7 A P McCoy —

BETTING: 1-3 Champleve, 5-1 Mouse Bird, 8-1 Gipsy Geof, 25-1 Coolimny, Flow Back.

1997: GLITTER ISLE 7-11-4 P Hide (13-2) J Gifford 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Mouse Bird beat Head For Heaven 22l in 5-runner novice chase at Lingfield (2m, good to soft) with Flow Back (6lb better off) 31l 4th and Coolimny (6lb better off) 41l last. Gipsy Geof 23l 5th of 17 to Harlequin Chorus in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft). Champleve 19l 3rd of 6 to Lord Jim in hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, soft).

CHAMPLEVE, useful over hurdles, can make a successful transition to chasing

2.40 ASHURST JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,304: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 1 TYROLEAN DREAM 16 (S) (P Heath) M Tompkins 11-3 R Thornton 125
2 4 ABOO HOM 20 (Hamstac Plc) M Pipe 10-10 A P McCoy 90
3 ANNOUNCING 6F (Miss K Shine) G L Moore 10-10 M A Fitzgerald
4 3422 BORAZON 21 (M Archer & Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 10-10 C Llewellyn
5 6 HIGHLY PRIZED 16 (Mrs M O'Kelly) J King 10-10 J Culloty 95
6 444 THE NEGOTIATOR 23 (F Sainsbury) M Heaton-Ellis 10-10 B Powell 120
7 40330 ZAFARELLI 27 (R Ellis) J Jenkins 10-10 P Hide 111
8 U3 WONTCOSTALOTBUT 27 (Wontcostalot Ptnrs) M Wilkinson 10-5 N Williamson 108

BETTING: 4-9 Borazon, 11-2 Tyrolean Dream, 7-1 Aboo Hom, 16-1 Announcing, Highly Prized, 20-1 others.

1997: CHEERFUL ASPECT 10-10 N Williamson (5-1) T Forster 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Tyrolean Dream beat Copper Shell 1½l in 20-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft) with Highly Prized (7lb better off) 22l 8th. Aboo Hom 7¾l 4th of 23 to Good Lord Murphy in maiden hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). Borazon 2½l 2nd of 13 to Zabarabad in 4yo novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft). The Negotiator 17l 4th of 11 to Foreign Rule in 4yo maiden hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Wontcostalotbut 24l 3rd of 11 to City Hall in 4yo novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft) with Zafarelli (levels) 77l 9th.

BORAZON has nothing of the calibre of Zabarabad to cope with here

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Wilkinson	3	10	30.0	R Dunwoody	16	49	32.7
G L Moore	9	34	26.5	D Bridgwater	11	43	25.6
D Sherwood	3	12	25.0	A P McCoy	6	29	20.7
M Pipe	12	51	23.5	M A Fitzgerald	6	30	20.0
N Twiston-Davies	7	30	23.3	P Hide	5	25	20.0
D Gandolfo	3	14	21.4	N Williamson	7	43	16.3

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.10 WORTH WOOD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,534: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1 3054011 HEVER GOLF DIAMOND 57 (B,D,G,S) (Classic Link Synd) J Best 5-11-10 B McGann (7)
2 68-3834 THE EXECUTOR 16 (F) (J Joseph) R O'Sullivan 8-11-6 C Llewellyn 103
3 P-55000 MY MAN IN DUNDALK 9 (B,S) (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 9-11-2 G Bradley 80
4 651-F05 LUCY TUFTY 42 (F,G) (G Tufts) J Pearce 7-10-12 N Williamson 101
5 /5-504F PHROSE 83 (CD,S) (Miss B Small) C Jones 8-10-6 L Suthern (7) 86
6 PP03/0P COME ON RISK ME 20 (H Ormesher) D McCain 7-10-4 S Wynne —
7 000/00 MULLINGAR CON 57 (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 10-10-3 S Hogan (3) 64
8 0-5P366 MEGA TID 23 (Coxon Racing Ltd) J Poulton 6-10-0 J Magee (3) 87

BETTING: 2-1 The Executor, 9-4 Hever Golf Diamond, 5-1 Lucy Tufty, 6-1 My Man In Dundalk, 10-1 Mega Tid, 14-1 Phrose, 16-1 Mullingar Con, 25-1 Come On Risk Me.

1997: SCRIPT 6-10-7 J Osborne (5-1) J Jenkins 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Hever Golf Diamond beat Fair And Fancy ½l in 7-runner selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Mega Tid (3lb better off) 3½l in 8-runner selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). The Executor 5l 4th of 10 to Pinkerton's Pal in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft); previously 4¼l 3rd of 13 to Manol Boo in selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft) with My Man In Dundalk (8lb better off) 53l 9th. Lucy Tufty 18l 5th of 7 to Tudor Falcon in selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Phrose fell in selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good); previously 33l 4th of 12 to Moonmaker's Mirage in selling hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Come On Risk Me pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, heavy). Mullingar Con 37l 11th of 13 to Encoltin in selling handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good).

THE EXECUTOR narrowly gets the vote in an uninspiring contest

3.40 STEPHANIE WILSON BIRTHDAY HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,988: 3m) (5 runners)

1 3121P-3 BALLY CLOVER 23 (G,S) (J Williams) Miss V Williams 11-11-10 N Williamson 129
2 1-25422 ORSWELL LAD 14 (B,S) (R Wright) P Hobbs 9-11-3 Mr R Widger (7) 138
3 12/0-42 CALL HOME 64 (D,F,G,S) (M Pinks) Miss S Edwards 10-11-2 O Burrows (5) 135
4 6-F53P4 FOODBROKER STAR 18 (CD,S) (Food Brokers Ltd) J Gifford 8-11-0 P Hide
5 P21-434 MISS DISKIN 20 (G,S) (M Forester) R Buckler 9-10-10 B Powell 140

BETTING: 2-1 Orswell Lad, 5-2 Miss Diskin, 4-1 Foodbroker Star, 11-2 Bally Clover, 6-1 Call Home

1997: GIVENTIME 9-11-2 L Harvey (7-2 fav) A Turnell 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Bally Clover a distance 3rd of 9 to Brave Highlander in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to soft). Orswell Lad 2l 2nd of 4 to Cool Dawn in handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft). Call Home 2l 2nd of 6 to Damas in amateur handicap chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good). Foodbroker Star 10l 4th of 8 to Malwood Castle in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft). Miss Diskin beaten a distance 4th of 16 to A N C Express in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, heavy).

ORSWELL LAD can finally get his head in front

4.10 HOLTYE MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,262: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

1 BAHAMIAN KNIGHT 103F (Lucayan Stud) M Pipe 5-11-6 A P McCoy —
2 CHARLIE CHARLIE 986F (A G Russell) H Missin) L Wells 7-11-6 P Hide —
3 2P MAD ALEX 25 (J Saunders) M Haynes 5-11-6 C Llewellyn 70
4 MAJOR CHANGE 170F (Two In One Ptnrs) Miss G Kelleway 6-11-6 R Dunwoody —
5 PALACE GUARD 841F (C Wall) G Enright 6-11-6 T J Murphy —
6 FP2-P0 PLUVIUS 21 (W Dudley) C Hemsley 6-11-6 S Curran —
7 25-3200 ROYAL SCIMITAR 18 (P J M Racing) M Tompkins 6-11-6 R Thornton 120
8 13-802 SIMONS CASTLE 20 (D,S) (Mrs B Marchant) R O'Sullivan 5-11-6 N Williamson
9 0 SMOKEY ROBOT 88 (M Pinto) Miss S Edwards 5-11-6 W Greatrex (7) —
10 0P STONE RIDGE 7 (Mrs C Hamegan) D Sherwood 6-11-6 J A McCarthy 76
11 0 THE NEWSMAN 100 (M Pinto) Miss S Edwards 6-11-6 O Burrows (5) —
12 6 WOT NO FAX 21 (Kensquip's Racing Partnership) G L Moore 5-11-6 M A Fitzgerald 70
13 CLAPPING (M Austin) A M Newton-Smith 7-11-1 D Bridgwater —
14 BP6 SANDWOOD 11 (M Pascall) J Bridger 5-11-1 M Batchelor (7) —
15 PP0/ SHAMUKE 751 (T Pasquale) S Woodman 6-11-1 Mr S Durack (5) —
16 NUBILE 32F (Windsor Racing) W Musson 4-10-5 B Powell —

BETTING: 5-4 Bahamian Knight, 9-4 Simons Castle, 8-1 Major Change, 10-1 Royal Scimitar, Wot No Fax, 16-1 Stone Ridge, 25-1 The Newsman, 33-1 others.

1997: THREE FARTHINGS 7-11-8 C Llewellyn (13-8 fav) J Old 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Bahamian Knight won Italian Derby as a 3yo, but mostly disappointing last Flat season. Mad Alex pulled up in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy), previously 20l 2nd of 9 to Totally Yours in novice claiming hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, soft) with Sandwood (15lb better off) 44l 6th. Major Change useful over 1m-10f on Flat. Royal Scimitar 21l 7th of 22 to Jet Tabs in maiden hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Simons Castle 1¼l 2nd of 12 to Galitax in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Smokey Robot 54l 16th of 21 to Conchobor in NH flat race at Worcester (2m, good). Stone Ridge pulled up in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Wot No Fax 61l 6th of 14 to Road Racer in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft) with Pluvius (levels) 68l 8th.

SIMONS CASTLE is taken to make his hurdling experience tell against Bahamian Knight

4.40 HBLB EDENBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,164: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 11-5356 TICKERTY'S GIFT 25 (B,CD,F,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 8-12-0 M Batchelor (7) 118
2 UPPPFP FALMOUTH BAY 21 (B,D,G,S) (J Morton) O Sherwood 9-11-5 J A McCarthy
3 23-0P13 TAKE COVER 14 (D,S) (A & M Barnett) M Tompkins 7-11-5 R Thornton
4 41-F MON AMIE 244 (BF,G) (Miss Joanna Tremain) A Hobbs 8-10-13 A Thornton 90
5 5411246 FRONTIER FLIGHT 16 (D,F,G,S) (Miss L Siddall) Miss L Siddall 8-10-13 S Wynne 111
6 33-4443 BEN BOWDEN 7 (V,F) (Mrs N Maltby) S Woodman 5-10-6 A P McCoy 117
7 01P40-0 EQUITY'S DARLING 18 (B,CD,S) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 8-10-1 P Hide 90
8 /FUPP-0 HUGE MISTAKE 21 (S) (Wychwood Racing Ptnrs) C Hemsley 9-10-0 B Fenton —
9 000/400 HAPPY HORSE 8 (B,F,G,S) (Major I Manning) N Hawke 11-10-0 R Greene —
10 20-0430 NORMANIA 84 (M Pinto) Miss S Edwards 6-10-0 O Burrows (5) 90

Long handicap: Happy Horse 9-11, Normania 9-5.

BETTING: 15-8 Take Cover, 5-1 Ben Bowden, 6-1 Tickerty's Gift, Frontier Flight, Normania, 7-1 Mon Amie, 20-1 Equity's Darling, 25-1 others.

1997: TICKERTY'S GIFT 7-12-0 M Ahern (9-2) G L Moore 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Tickerty's Gift 29l 6th of 7 to Royale Angela in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy). Falmouth Bay pulled up in handicap chase at Kempton (2m, soft). Take Cover 33l 3rd of 6 to Musthill in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, soft). Mon Amie fell in novice handicap hurdle at Worcester (3m, good), previously beat Camera Man 1¼l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). Frontier Flight 61l 5th of 10 to Lucia Forte in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft), previously 46l 4th of 6 to Spring Rhythm in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft) with Tickerty's Gift (levels) 59l 5th. Ben Bowden 8l 3rd of 7 to Province in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Equity's Darling a distance 7th of 8 to Oustaguay in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Happy Horse a distance 20th of 21 to Walter's Destiny in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good). Normania 44l 10th of 16 to Shahrur in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good).

TAKE COVER can deny Tickerty's Gift a second conseutive win in this race

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 3.10 My Man In Dundalk. 4.40 Ben Bowden. Southwell: 2.20 Take Notice. 2.50 My Lost Love. 3.20 Wild Canary. 3.50 Trienta Mil, My Hero. Catterick: 2.30 Apache Raider. 3.00 Tyndrum Gold

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Kelso

Going: good to soft

1.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Aghawadda Gold (R Garritty, 1-2 fav); 2, Snooty Eskimo (50-1); 3, Pheasants Delight (12-1). 12 ran. NR: Angry Native. 27l, 7l. T Tate. Tote: £1.30; £1.40, £18.70, £2.10. DF: £41.30. CSF: £52.01. Trio: £178.10 (part won; pool of £225.88 carried forward to 3.00 Catterick today).

2.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, Paperising (A Dobbin, 5-2 fav); 2, Callernoy (8-1); 3, Kibby Bank (14-1). 13 ran. NR: Grate Deel, Torus Spa. 10l, 7l. G Richards. Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £2.80, £6.20. DF: £22.30. Trio: £330.90. CSF: £20.45.

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Deep Water (R Garritty, 4-5 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Robbo (5-4); 3, Monaco (66-1). 6 ran. 14l, dist. M Hammond. Tote: £1.90; £1.00, £1.80. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.82.

3.00 (2m 1f ch) 1, Briar's Delight (L Wyer, 7-2); 2, Political Tower (3-1); 3, Tom Brodie (8-11 fav). 4 ran. NR: Netherby Said. 5l, ¾l. R Allan. Tote: £4.80. DF: £5.80. CSF: £12.48.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Wynyard Lady (P Niven, 5-1); 2, Mr Tees Components (7-1); 3, Wee Tam (20-1). Lumback Lady 7-2 fav. 12 ran. 4l, 2l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £4.60; £1.50, £4.10, £2.10. DF: £15.50. Trio: £123.80. CSF: £35.79.

4.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, Andy Burnett (Mr Chris Wilson, 14-1); 2, Davy Blake (2-1); 3, Buck's Delight (12-1). Buckboard Bounce 6-4 fav. 9 ran. 10l, 7l. Miss S Forster. Tote: £28.60; £4.20, £1.70, £2.90. DF: £58.90. Trio: £79.20. CSF: £41.65.

4.30 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Monica's Choice (P Niven, 4-1); 2, Charming Admiral (7-4 fav); 3, Common Sound (11-2). 8 ran. NR: Parrah. 6l, 5l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £7.60; £2.00, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £5.00. Trio: £33.10. CSF: £10.98. Tricast: £34.70.

Placepot: £228.30. Quadpot: £165.60.

Towcester

Going: good

1.40 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Cambo (M Richards, 5-1); 2, D'Naan (11-2); 3, Viscount Tully (12-1); 4, Polo Pony (14-1). Moonshine Dancer 7-2 fav. 21 ran. 9l, 2½l. M Banks. Tote: £5.30; £1.60, £1.90, £2.30, £2.60. DF: £10.50. Trio: £31.30. CSF: £31.52. Tricast: £319.33.

2.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, Sail By The Stars (S Wynne, 13-8 fav); 2, General Pongo (100-30); 3, Ballydougan (50-1). 9 ran. 7l, dist. T Forster. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £1.80, £6.10. DF: £5.30. Trio: £78.10. CSF: £8.26. Tricast: £192.22.

2.40 (2m hdle) 1, Soloman (P Hide, evens fav); 2, Saleel (13-8); 3, Woodland Nymph (25-1). 17 ran. NR: Tauten Boy. 3l, 18l. J Gifford. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.50, £5.10. DF: £1.70. Trio: £26.90. CSF: £2.74.

3.10 (2m 6f ch) 1, Ramallah (J Culloty, 5-1); 2, Swing Quartet (14-1); 3, King Of The Burren (16-1). Selatan 4-1 fav. 16 ran. 8l, 5l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £7.30; £2.00, £3.90, £7.10. DF: £59.50. CSF: £72.18. Trio: £415.20 (part won; pool of £64.33 carried forward to 3.00 Catterick today).

3.40 (2m hdle) 1, Storm Tiger (Chris Webb, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Ambidextrous (9-2); 3, Sigma Wireless (20-1). Supermick 3-1 jt-fav. 14 ran. 1½l, hd. S Mellor. Tote: £3.40; £2.10, £1.50, £5.20. DF: £7.50. Trio: £94.50. CSF: £15.90. Tricast: £230.68.

4.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Not My Line (Mr A Sansome, 6-1); 2, Thursday Night (5-4 fav); 3, Cawarra Boy (5-2). 4 ran. 1l, 11l. W Caudwell. Tote: £5.00. DF: £5.10. CSF: £13.13.

4.40 (2m flat) 1, Russell Road (R Massey, evens fav); 2, Coolaw (9-1); 3, Rockcliffe Gossip (6-1). 18 ran. Nk, 5l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £2.40, £3.00. DF: £8.70. Trio: £23.00. CSF: £11.72.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.39 winning tickets. Pool of £2,939.50 carried forward to Catterick today).

Placepot: £258.80. Quadpot: £78.20.

Lingfield Park

Going: slow

1.50 (5f) 1, La Doyenne (S Whitworth, 9-2); 2, Rise 'N Shine (4-1); 3, Just Dissident (9-2). Sound The Trumpet 7-2 fav. 10 ran. Nk, 1l. C Booth. Tote: £5.50; £1.60, £2.70, £1.90. DF: £15.40. Trio: £44.10. CSF: £21.50. Tricast: £79.15.

2.20 (7f) 1, Kings Harmony (S Sanders, 14-1); 2, Stoppes Brow (3-1); 3, Davis Rock (13-2). Palacegate Touch 6-5 fav. 10 ran. 4l, hd. P Makin. Tote: £14.70; £2.30, £2.00, £1.50. DF: £46.50. Trio: £78.60. CSF: £52.86.

2.50 (1m) 1, Gralmano (S Whitworth, 7-2); 2, Barbason (14-1); 3, Prince Of India (11-2). Silvering 2-1 fav. 7 ran. 5l, nk. N Littmoden. Tote: £5.30; £3.00, £3.50. DF: £29.60. CSF: £45.82.

3.20 (7f) 1, Means Business (T Siddall, 4-1); 2, Sharp Steel (8-1); 3, Pimup (7-4 fav). 7 ran. NR: Scotland Bay. 1½l, ¾l. J Hetherton. Tote: £6.60; £3.30, £2.80. DF: £33.00. CSF: £33.77. Tricast: £69.28.

3.50 (1m 2f) 1, Brilliant Red (A Clark, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, See Danzig (11-2); 3, Classic Find (11-4 jt-fav). 8 ran. 9l, 4l. P Hedger. Tote: £3.30; £1.60, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £6.90. CSF: £18.62. Tricast: £43.12.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, Sharbadarid (S Sanders, evens fav); 2, New Yorker (9-4); 3, Saucy Dancer (33-1). 6 ran. 5l, 22l. S Dow. Tote: £1.50; £1.80, £1.30. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.50.

Placepot: £229.00. Quadpot: £44.20.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.00 Mademist Sam. 2.30 Dawn Mission. 3.00 Salinger. 3.30 Shining Edge. 4.00 Noddle. 4.30 Count Tony.

GOING: GOOD (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,360: 2m 3f) (12 runners)

101 -123 GLENBOWER 42 (G) M Hammond 6-11-5 Mr C Bonner (3) 120
102 -0P5 A DAY ON THE DUB 16 T Tate 5-11-0 R Garritty 96
103 26-0 BILLY BUCKSKIN 22 J Turner 6-11-0 J Supple —
104 6-00 BRANDSBY MINSTER 65 P Beaumont 7-11-0 A Dobbin —
105 24- COUNTRYMAN 357 T George 7-11-0 R Johnson —
106 -PFU FORBES 37 J H Johnson 7-11-0 K Johnson —
107 0/P- GALLANT MAJOR 448 T Easterby 6-11-0 L Wyer —
108 -121 JESSICA ONE 76 (CD,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 P Niven 111
109 0-06 MADEMIST SAM 58 P Beaumont 6-11-0 R Supple 90
110 REDSWAY H Mason 7-11-0 R Guest —
111 06 ROI DE LA CHASSE 50 C Grant 5-11-0 B Storey —
112 P SLAVE'S CHOICE 65 J H Johnson 5-11-0 E Callaghan —

5-4 Jessica One, 4-1 A Day On The Dub, 9-2 Glenbower, 8-1 Countryman, 14-1 Roi De La Chasse, 16-1 Mademist Sam, 20-1 Brandsby Minster, 25-1 others.

2.30 STAYERS NOVICES CHASE
(£3,756: 3m 1f 110yd) (13)

201 251F DAWN MISSION 62 (B,BF,F,G) T Easterby 6-11-10 L Wyer 122
202 14PP MIGHTY MERC 20 (F) Mrs B Broad 10-11-10 A S Smith 100
203 UP60 APACHE RAIDER 13 (B) F Murphy 6-11-4 E Callaghan 76
204 21/P CARLEY LAD 13 (S) N Mason 10-11-4 R Guest —
205 3460 CASTLE RED 42 J Wade 7-11-4 K Johnson —
206 3-45 HARFDECENT 13 (F) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4 P Niven 90
207 PP00 JUST FOR ME 36 J A Moore 9-11-4 M H Naughton (5) 90
208 2-48 JUST ONE QUESTION 13 (G) J J O'Neill 8-11-4 P Carberry —
209 4-43 LORD FORTUNE 13 (F) M Hammond 8-11-4 R Garritty 106
210 S-PP MATACHON 13 M Smith 8-11-4 J Supple —
211 21/P MISTER MUDDYPAWS 22 (F,G) J H Johnson 8-11-4 B Harding —
212 6453 SNIPER 36 F Murtagh 6-11-4 A Dobbin 100
213 P-46 DOWSHI 58 L Lungo 7-10-13 R Supple —

6-4 Dawn Mission, 5-1 Lord Fortune, 6-1 Harfdecent, 8-1 Just One Question, 10-1 Mister Muddypaws, 14-1 Carley Lad, Sniper, 16-1 others

3.00 DINSDALE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,648: 2m 3f) (17)

301 /003 SALINGER 13 (G,S) J Parkes 10-12-0 M Newton 91
302 3632 RECRUITMENT 30 J Turner 5-11-6 N Horrocks 90
303 3503 HIGHFIELD PET 51 C Grant 5-10-11 C McCormack 104
304 24/0 RAVE-ON-HADLEY 10 S Campion 8-10-9 P Midgley —
305 6/00 MALIHABAD 10 (G,S) R Hollinshead 9-10-8 P Henley 62
306 53/0 DRUMDONNA 13 P Beaumont 8-10-7 E Callaghan —
307 0022 ONE STOP 13 M Barnes 5-10-6 S Taylor 90
308 P-0U GONE AWAY 13 M Hammond 9-10-4 A Ede (7) —
309 0U46 HUTCHIES LADY 13 R McKellar 6-10-0 G Lee 80
310 0-U5 SPRINGFIELD RHYME 57 S Gollings 7-10-0 L Cummins —
311 3FP0 ANOTHER PICEA 13 A J Lockwood 5-10-0 D Thomas 70
312 P3U5 AHBEJAYBUS 7 (B) Miss L Siddall 9-10-0 T Siddall 80
313 0PP/ VALIANT VICAR 650P D Barker 11-10-0 E Husband —
314 03P- TRIONA'S HOPE 300 E Cane 9-10-0 M H Naughton —
315 003P TYNDRUM GOLD 58 (B) A J Lockwood 8-10-0 S Ryan 80
316 2405 THARSIS 57 (B,D,F,G,S) W Smith 13-10-0 N Hannity (4) 87
317 PPP5 KATOUCHE 37 (B) S Clark 7-10-0 F Leahy —

11-4 One Stop, 7-2 Recruitment, 6-1 Highfield Pet, 7-1 Hutchies Lady, 8-1 Salinger, 10-1 Malihabad, 12-1 Rave-On-Hadley, Springfield Rhyme, 20-1 others.

3.30 5TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,418: 2m 3f) (5)

401 -P41 BOB DEVANI 25 (G,S) T George 12-11-10 Mr D McPhail (7) 121
402 212F SHINING EDGE 7 (C,F,G) T Easterby 6-11-2 L Wyer 117
403 1-F6 WOODBRIDGE 10 (D,G) F Murphy 9-11-2 P Carberry 116
404 F1U2 MR FUDGE 51 (CD,F,G,S) M Sowersby 11-10-8 M H Naughton (5) 118
405 4231 NELTEGRITY 16 (S) Mrs P Sly 9-10-5 W Marston 123

9-4 Shining Edge, 11-4 Bob Devani, Neltegrity, 9-2 Mr Fudge, 10-1 Woodbridge

4.00 COWTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,388: 3m 1f 110yd) (13)

501 -121 DANGER FLYNN 62 (G,S) Mrs P Sly 8-12-0 W Marston 114
502 30-P GIVE BEST 20 (S) J J O'Neill 7-11-13 P Carberry 112
503 0/06 LETHAL COCKTAIL 21 (S) J H Johnson 9-11-12 A S Smith 84
504 P/55 NODDLE 38 (BF,CD,G,S) L Lungo 10-11-5 R Supple 96
505 -434 RIOT LEADER 16 T George 9-11-2 R Johnson 112
506 2012 WEATHER WISE 15 (G,S) W G M Turner 6-10-8 DOUBTFUL —
507 -21P ARCTIC FOX 62 (G) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-8 P Niven 117
508 1P4- HUDSON BAY TRADER 298 (D,G,S) P Beaumont 11-10-7 Miss P Robson 90
509 0-42 NASAYER 42 N Mason 8-10-5 R Guest 126
510 P-05 BLACK ICE BOY 22 (B) R Bastiman 7-10-2 H Bastiman (5) 100
511 18/F KITTOCHSIDE LAD 42 (F) Mrs A Swinbank 8-10-2 J Supple —
512 P826 MONOTONY 38 C Grant 5-10-0 A Dobbin 117
513 -436 NITE SPRITE 50 (F) R Barr 8-10-0 S Taylor (3) 90

7-2 Noddle, 4-1 Danger Flynn, Riot Leader, 7-1 Lethal Cocktail Nasayer, 10-1 Arctic Fox, 12-1 Give Best, Monotony, 20-1 others

4.30 HARTLEPOOL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,332: 2m) (10)

601 412 COUNT TONY 21 (D,S) M Hammond 11-5 R Garritty 118
602 54 FATHER EDDIE 160 M Sowersby 10-12 A S Smith 104
603 3524 FORTUNE HUNTER 36 J Norton 10-12 D Byrne 98
604 0 NIGHT EXPRESS 14 M Todhunter 10-12 C McCormack (5) —
605 0333 NORTHERN MAESTRO 93 Mrs M Reveley 10-12 P Niven 96
606 83 PANDORAS LORD 27F J Wainwright 10-12 P Midgley (3) 78
607 SEFTON BLAKE 52F M Meagher 10-12 L Wyer —
608 BLOWING AWAY 86F M Tompkins 10-7 P Carberry —
609 EAT YOUR PEAR 81F R Bastiman 10-7 H Bastiman (5) —
610 STRICTLY HARD 179F F Storey 10-7 B Storey —

5-4 Count Tony, 7-2 Northern Maestro, 5-1 Blowing Away, 8-1 Fortune Hunter, 12-1 Father Eddie, 20-1 Pandoras Lord, Eat Your Pear, 25-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Easterby, 8 winners from 22 runners, 36.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 19 from 83, 22.9%; F Murtagh, 4 from 19, 21.1%; Mrs A Swinbank, 4 from 23, 17.4%; L Lungo, 8 from 47, 17.0%.

JOCKEYS: Miss P Robson, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; P Niven, 25 from 82, 30.5%; A S Smith, 13 from 74, 17.6%; P Carberry, 7 from 40, 17.5%; R Guest, 8 from 55, 14.5%; R Supple, 8 from 57, 14.0%.

Racing Post move cleared

THE Government yesterday approved the Mirror Group's purchase of the *Racing Post*. The Department of Trade and Industry said the acquisition did not have to go before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as the newspaper's circulation was below 50,000. The Mirror Group plans to change the format of the other racing daily, *The Sporting Life*, to make it a general sports newspaper.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.50 Danzino. 2.20 Yeoman Oliver. 2.50 Sada. 3.20 Miracle Island. 3.50 State Approval. 4.20 Raindeer Quest.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.50 KELHAM HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,203: 1m) (11 runners)

1 -122 DANCING RIO 20 (CD) P Haslam 9-7 C Lowther (3) 9
2 03-4 SKY MOUNTAIN 7 S Bowring 9-2 C Teague (3) 4
3 00-5 MASTER CASTER 15 D Loder 9-1 G Faulkner (5) 1
4 4-54 BUNNIES OWN 13 J L Harris 8-13 R Winston (5) 11
5 -006 SNAPPY TIMES 7 M Dods 8-11 A Clark 7
6 -052 POETTO 7 J Hetherton 8-10 L Charnock 10
7 050- LUNCHTIME GIRL 123 J Bethell 8-8 S Drowne 3
8 -162 SHARWAY LADY 11 (B,CD) B McMahon 8-7 L Newton 5
9 00-1 DANZINO 7 (CD) Mrs N Macauley 8-5 (6ex) F McCabe (3) 8
10 34-5 THE IMPOSTER 32 D Murray Smith 8-4 A McCarthy (5) 6
11 40-3 BINT NADIA 11 (F) Miss J Craze 8-4 T Williams 2

9-4 Danzino, 7-2 Dancing Rio, 7-1 Poetto, 8-1 Master Caster, Sharway Lady, 10-1 Bint Nadia, 12-1 Bunnies Own, 16-1 others

2.20 LANGFORD APPRENTICES CLAIMING STAKES (£2,095: 1m) (9)

1 000- TAKE NOTICE 53J (V) M Wane 5-9-7 P Dobbs 2
2 -223 YEOMAN OLIVER 13 (B,CD) B McMahon 5-9-7 S Righton 5
3 -323 JOSEPH'S WINE 14 (B,CD,F,G) J Whatton 9-9-4 D McGaffin 6
4 -310 PINE RIDGE LAD 14 (V,CD,F,G) J Eyre 8-9-4 S Buckley (3) 4
5 000- SWYNFORD CHARMER 65J J Hetherton 4-8-12 A Nicholls (3) 8
6 -015 ROCK ISLAND LINE 14 (C,D,F,S) J Berry 4-8-9 P Bradley 1
7 09-0 YOUNG ANNABEL 14 (C) D Morris 5-8-7 D Williams (3) 7
8 4664 AWESOME VENTURE 7 (CD,S) M Chapman 8-8-6 J Fowle 3
9 00-0 REDSPET 9 (B) S Bowring 4-7-12 Lisa Hackett (7) 6

3-1 Joseph's Wine, 7-2 Yeoman Oliver, 9-2 Pine Ridge Lad, 5-1 Rock Island Line, 6-1 Awesome Venture, 10-1 Young Annabel, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Loder, 6 winners from 12 runners, 50.0%; Lord Huntingdon, 15 from 62, 24.2%; M Johnston, 44 from 213, 20.7%; Bob Jones, 3 from 16, 18.8%; D Murray Smith, 3 from 16, 18.8%; P Haslam, 17 from 103, 16.5%; J Eyre, 35 from 240, 14.6%; D Nicholls, 28 from 199, 14.1%.

JOCKEYS: D Holland, 24 winners from 124 rides, 19.4%; D Harrison, 23 from 124, 18.5%; S Righton, 3 from 20, 15.0%; P Roberts, 9 from 61, 14.8%; C Lowther, 6 from 50, 12.0%; A McGlone, 5 from 42, 11.9%; G Duffield, 23 from 204, 11.3%; Martin Dwyer, 7 from 62, 11.3%.

2.50 HALHAM HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,788: 6f) (12)

1 2-31 EMINENT 4 (C) Lord Huntingdon 9-12 (6ex) W Ryan 5
2 1004 JULIES JEWEL 7 (CD) M Chapman 9-7 S Carson (7) 9
3 304- HIGH GAIN 98 (F) P Howling 9-7 S Whitworth 1
4 430- SADA 62 C Dwyer 9-7 D Harrison 4
5 5-42 OK BABE 14 (D) J Akehurst 9-2 D Biggs 12
6 000- TOP FLOOR 160 N Tinkler 9-1 Kim Tinkler 11
7 40-4 KILLARNEY JAZZ 14 J Wharton 8-10 T Lucas 6
8 5-11 FAST FRANC 14 (CD,S) C Williams 8-10 D Williams (7) 2
9 -432 ROCKSWAIN 2 P Haslam 8-10 C Lowther (3) 8
10 4-03 MY LOST LOVE 15 (B) M Johnston 8-9 D Holland 7
11 -350 PENNILESS 14 (G) N Tinkler 8-1 L Charnock 10
12 0-00 MR FUND SWITCH 14 (B) D Nicholls 7-10 A McCarthy (5) 3

7-2 Eminent, 5-1 Ok Babe, Rockswain, 8-1 Fast Franc, 8-1 Sada, Killarney Jazz, 12-1 Julies Jewel, My Lost Love, 14-1 others

3.20 OLD CLIPSTONE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,085: 1m 3f) (6)

1 500- HIGHBURY LEGEND 46 Bob Jones 9-0 A Daly (3) 2
2 2 MIRACLE ISLAND 13 D Loder 9-0 G Faulkner (5) 4
3 0- ROLLING HIGH 115 D Murray Smith 9-0 C Lowther (3) 5
4 0 HIGHLAND FLING 13 M Johnston 8-9 D Holland 1
5 00- SANTARENE 105 P Howling 8-9 J Quinn 6
6 0- WILD CANARY 74 (V) Lord Huntingdon 8-9 W Ryan 3

1-3 Miracle Island, 5-1 Highland Fling, 8-1 Wild Canary, 20-1 Highbury Legend, 33-1 Rolling High, Santarene

3.50 NEW BALDERTON SELLING STAKES
(£1,738: 1m 3f) (13)

1 2211 PICKENS 14 (CD,F) Emma Inocca 6-9-5 Kim Tinkler 5
2 0-11 STATE APPROVAL 13 (F) Miss S Wilton 5-9-5 S Whitworth 13
3 4-34 ERRANT 13 D Cosgrove 6-9-0 M Rimmer 9
4 6-60 FLAG FEN 7 (G,S) J Parkes 7-9-0 R Winston (5) 7
5 JAMES FIRST 323J R Ingram 5-9-0 A McGlone 4
6 -006 ONE SHOT 14 (B) W Muir 5-9-0 J Wilkinson (5) 3
7 004- PRIME PARTNER 129 (G) Ron Thompson 5-9-0 V Halliday 12
8 0/56 RUTH'S GAMBLE 8 (V,G,S) Mrs L Jewell 10-9-0 Dane O'Neill 8
9 6-40 SARASI 18 (V,CD) Miss J A Camacho 6-9-0 L Charnock 1
10 5PP- SEA GOD 60 (CD) M Chapman 7-9-0 S Carson (7) 2
11 -430 TRIENTA MIL 18 (V) P Dalton 4-8-12 P Fessey (3) 6
12 0100 CRUZ SANTA 14 (CD) M Chapman 5-8-9 Clare Lund (7) 11
13 /04- MY HERO 49J (V) T Mills 4-8-7 Lisa Hackett (7) 10

7-4 State Approval, 7-2 Pickens, 5-1 Errant, 6-1 Prime Partner, 10-1 Sarasi, 14-1 Ruth's Gamble, 16-1 My Hero, 20-1 others.

4.20 MANSFIELD HANDICAP (£2,840: 1m 4f) (6)

1 4/0- ALLEMANDE 105 (G) Ron Thompson 6-10-0 V Halliday 1
2 0-46 FIELD OF VISION 16 (F,S) Mrs A Swinbank 8-9-11 G Duffield 4
3 12-2 MOONRAKING 14 (BF,CD) T Etherington 5-9-2 C Lowther (3) 3
4 0321 EVEZIO RUFO 8 (B,C,S) N Littmoden 6-8-6 (6ex) P Roberts (3) 5
5 00-3 RAINDEER QUEST 21 (BF,C,F,G) J Eyre 5-7-11 A McCarthy (5) 6
6 0-02 RECORD LOVER 7 (C) M Chapman 8-7-10 A Nicholls (7) 2

2-1 Moonraking, 9-4 Raindeer Quest, 5-1 Evezio Rufo, 6-1 Field Of Vision, 8-1 Record Lover, 16-1 Allemande

Ride for Dobbin

TONY DOBBIN will ride in Sunday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup after all. Gordon Richards's jockey, whose stable's three entries have been withdrawn from the race, has been booked by Aidan O'Brien to ride Corket. It will be Dobbin's first ride for the Irish champion trainer.

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Rob Hughes previews a Winter Olympics of high ideals and even higher finance

Snow business looking big in Japan

So, you think you have seen it all in the name of sport? Tomorrow morning, at 11 o'clock here — 0200 GMT — a sumo grand champion with little but his blubber to ward off the chill will perform a traditional ceremony to cleanse the arena of evil spirits so that the Winter Olympic Games may begin.

Japanese prayers were answered last month, when snow belatedly covered the Nagano region, where the eighteenth Winter Olympics, the most southerly ever held, are due to engage us over the next 16 days. The flame, though it flickered and died eight times on its passage through Japan, has reached its destination, as have 2,450 competitors from 72 countries.

They include bobsleighers from the Virgin Islands, following where Jamaicans have slid for four Olympic Games now. There are two intrepid Kenyans, who have turned themselves into cross-country skiers. And, yes, from the nation that started it all, from the homeland of Arnold Lunn, the pioneering ski-racer, there are 33 Great Britons aspiring to fulfil their potential. Gold may have eluded the Britons on all but half a dozen occasions in 74 years, but, in the Baron de Coubertin ethic, they take part.

Indeed, for the vast majority, that remains the attraction of the Olympics. We come to see man and woman trying to summon body and mind to a lifetime's peak performance, knowing that only the few are destined to win medals of gold, silver or bronze.

There are, of course, the special athletes, whose excellence sets them apart. I cannot wait, for example, for Sunday to set eyes on Hermann Maier, the Austrian who, if he stays on his skis, will win the Olympic downhill and perhaps two other golds as well.

From bricklayer to king of the slopes is his tale and this man descends closer to the limits of triumph and disaster than others dare. He is challenging the greats — the Klammers and Killys and Zurbriggens — and has a down-to-earth explanation for the urge to be the best. "I have tried bricklaying for a living and skiing for a living," he said. "I prefer to ski."

Behind him, on the 1,765-metre (5,825-feet) drop of Mount Karamatsu, an Englishman, Graham Bell, hopes to leave an imprint on Olympic history. At 31, Bell, like many a ski-racer, a man in debt to meticulous knee surgery, competes in a record fifth Games. For perseverance, then, the British spirit endures.

For courage, bordering on foolhardiness, that slope will see Picabo Street, of the United States, who, coming back from a harrowing injury that would finish most athletes, is the Nike Girl of the sport. Earlier this week, Street lost control at 75mph in Are, Sweden. Her fall was arrested by a barrier, she briefly lost consciousness, limped away in tears, but, as inevitable as the rising sun, announced that her date with Nagano was not in question.

The mountain awaits. Its tranquility will soon be ended by an avalanche of people; a million Japanese alone are heading for Nagano. And yet, as the bullet train speeds them on the 90-minute ride from Tokyo, as the nation beset by financial tremors counts the $792 million (£480 million) cost of staging the Games — and $10 billion on roads and construction — Mount Karamatsu stands as a symbol of controversy and compromise in putting together this Olympiad.

For five years, the European ski experts tried to reason that the true test of downhill skill required starting higher up the mountain; environmentalists stood firm against allowing any man to set foot above 1,680 metres.

The Olympians wanted 20 seconds more on the 1min 40sec racing descent. The Worldwide Fund for Nature argued that the invasion is "like declaring to the world that the Nagano Games are throwing away the principle of co-existence with nature", threatening rare flora.

Down below, and indoors, more familiar controversies could reignite in the skating arena known as White Ring. Just as the main Olympic stadium is a monument to symbolism, shaped around 21 pillars, like stalks, supporting an arena resembling an opening cherry blossom, so White Ring has a domed roof resembling a drop of water.

On the ice, Elvis Stojko, the dynamic Canadian who prefers quadruple jumps to artistic flow, builds his programme on staccato, martial arts lines; the Bruce Lee of the rink. Stojko's contention that male skating has favoured "effeminate movements" for too long may not deflect the judges from preferring the classical lines of Ilya Kulik, a Massachusetts-based Russian.

Similarly, the United States is being led to an expectant rivalry between Tara Lipinski, 15, and Michelle Kwan, 17. The television ratings will surely not soar as high as the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding soap opera of 1994, but, boy, did they get excited last month when Lipinski, the 1997 world champion, fell and cried while Kwan, liberated after two months of pain from a stress fracture in her foot, was given seven perfect sixes.

Those were American marks, well away from the intrigue of political voting in the international arena, and, just as there was a Ukrainian to eclipse Kerrigan and Harding at the last Olympics, so there is Irena Slutskaya, from Russia, as favourite now.

Britain has a solitary figure skater, Steven Cousins. But, on ice, there are medal prospects with Nicky Gooch in short-track speed skating, with the bobsleigh team led by Sean Olsson, and in curling, though the Royal Caledonian Curling Club will bridle at American gibes that the ancient sport of the Scots looks like "shuffleboard for penguins".

They would not, in any event, repay mockery with like when it comes to the National Hockey League (NHL) of multimillionaires shutting down their season to play Olympic games. Wayne Gretsky, an ice hockey phenomenon, will grace the big arenas here, and, with NHL regulars in nine national squads, including the probable medal-winners, Canada, United States and Sweden, no one can question the quality.

Morever, the hockey players promise to sleep in the Olympic village, to share the experience that the US "Dream Team" basketballers never did in Barcelona in 1992.

The US, too, expects to dominate the snowboard inauguration at the Games, a sport whose champion, Terje Haakonsen, of Norway, declines to take the Olympic oath and disparages the International Olympic Committee as a mafia. "If he is not happy, he can remain at home," retorted Juan Antonio Samaranch, head of the Olympic movement.

So Haakonsen and other irreverent snowboarders boycott the Games; Todd Richards, an American, will be here, bringing what he claims to be "an element of youth to a stuffy format".

They may think they ride high; Masahiko Harada knows he must. He carries the weight of Japanese expectation and weight is the enemy to men who throw themselves off a mountain to fly like a bird.

Harada is in the form of his life, but so he was in 1994 when, as world champion, he flopped at the Lillehammer Olympics. "It was my shame to let down so much expectation," he said.

Now, seeking to emulate a predecessor who won the ski jump title when the Games were held in Sapporo, Harada is inspired by far more than the 3 million yen offered to all Japanese gold medal-winners.

He stands at the pinnacle of an event where culture and commerce collide. In Nagano there is a famous shrine, Zenkoji, dating back 1,300 years. For the duration of the Games, it will serve as a studio for CBS, the American television network, whose millions virtually bankroll these Olympics.

It is the most powerful symbol yet that the Olympic spirit is negotiable and that high ideals and high finance are as inseparable as the interlocking rings.

DAY-BY-DAY GUIDE TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS

TOMORROW
Opening ceremony, men's ice hockey preliminary matches.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8
Freestyle skiing preliminary moguls, snowboard men's giant slalom, Alpine men's downhill, men's and women's ice hockey preliminary matches, Nordic women's 15km classic, men's solo luge, men's speed skating 5000m, pairs figure skating short programme.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9
Curling men's and women's preliminary rounds, Snowboard women's giant slalom, Alpine men's combined downhill, Nordic men's 30km classic, men's and women's ice hockey preliminary matches, Biathlon women's 15km, men's solo luge, men's speed skating 500m.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10
Curling men's and women's preliminary rounds, Alpine women's super-giant slalom, Nordic women's 10km classic, men's ice hockey preliminary matches, women's solo luge, men's speed skating 500m, figure skating pairs free programme.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11
Curling men's and women's preliminary rounds, Alpine men's combined slalom, Ski jumping individual K90, freestyle skiing moguls finals, women's ice hockey preliminary matches, Biathlon men's 20km, women's solo luge, women's speed skating 3000m.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12
Curling men's and women's preliminary rounds, Snowboard half-pipe qualifying and final, Nordic men's 10km classic, women's 10km pursuit, men's ice hockey playoff matches, women's preliminary matches, men's speed skating 1500m, figure skating men's short programme.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13
Curling men's and women's preliminary rounds and playoffs, Nordic combined individual jump K90, Alpine men's super-giant slalom, two-man luge, men's ice hockey final phase matches, women's speed skating 500m, Figure skating compulsory dance.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14
Curling men's and women's playoffs and finals, Alpine women's downhill, Nordic 15km pursuit, men's ice hockey final phase matches, women's preliminary matches, Nordic combined individual 15km, two-man bobsleigh, women's speed skating 500m, Figure skating men's free programme.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15
Curling men's and women's final, Ski jumping individual K120, Alpine women's combined downhill, Biathlon women's 7.5km, men's ice hockey final phase matches, two-man bobsleigh, men's speed skating 1000m, Figure skating original dance.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20
Alpine women's giant slalom, Nordic women's 30km, Nordic combined team 4x5km, four-man bobsleigh, men's ice hockey semi-finals, women's speed skating 5000m, Figure skating women's free programme.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21
Alpine men's slalom, Biathlon men's 4x7.5km relay, four-man bobsleigh, men's ice hockey third-place match, Short-track women's 1000m, men's 500m final, 5000m relay final.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22
Nordic men's 50km, men's ice hockey final, Closing ceremony.


Stojko: power over artistry


Gretzsky: phenomenon


Lipinski, the world champion, chases Olympic gold


Maier takes flight during training in Nagano this week

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CHANGING TIMES

Tout reflects on slippery slope to drug abuse

Chris Moore on a man whose Olympic ambitions were wrecked by a positive test


ANTHONY UPTON
Tout speaks candidly about the pressures that made him take drugs

MARK TOUT, the disgraced British Olympian, has spoken publicly for the first time about the drug abuse that led to him being banned from bobsleighing for life. Tout, who finished fifth and sixth in the two and four-man events at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, would have been a leading contender for a medal in Nagano next week.

However, in October 1996 he was banned for life by the British Bobsleigh Association (BBA), after a positive test for anabolic steroids. His experience has led him to the conclusion that all sports worldwide should implement life bans for drug abuse.

Tout, a former Army corporal, told *The Times* that the biggest factor behind drug-taking in sport is the belief that rival competitors are also doing it. "What I took was supposed to be out of my system within two days and I was shell-shocked by the positive result of my test," he said.

"I used to train twice a day, six days a week. Yet I'd come up against a guy who, since I'd last seen him, had put on 15lb, could run three tenths faster over 30 metres and was suddenly squatting 150lb. Well, he hadn't done that eating Smarties and cornflakes. That's what boxes you into a corner and forces you to make a decision. You either catch up and keep pace or lag behind."

However, he has never made excuses and, unusually, made a full admission of guilt as soon as he was called before the sport's governing body. "What I did was premeditated. I was aware of the risks involved and obviously I felt I'd never get caught, otherwise I wouldn't have done it," he said.

"I could have argued the toss like so many others. But listen, all this stuff about 'I didn't realise I'd taken anything' is a load of rubbish. The only thing I am bitter about is that I received a life ban when so many others only get two years.

"Just look at Ben Johnson. He won the biggest Olympic gold medal of the lot, tested positive and was thrown out of athletics in disgrace. Yet, next time round he was back on the track. What sort of deterrent is that? It makes an absolute mockery of the whole thing." Tout vividly recalls the day he was summoned to the British Olympic Association's (BOA) headquarters as the "flattest" of his life. "The first thing I did was phone my immediate family," he said. "Then I went across the road to a McDonald's to take it in. I was on a real downer, but the strange thing was that as I sat there thinking about it, I had a feeling of relief because suddenly all the pressure I'd been under was starting to lift." A struggle to recover from injury began Tout's use of anabolic steroids. "Pressure of performance was part of it, but the real reason was my hamstring injury. That was definitely the catalyst," he said. "Our start times at the Lillehammer Olympics were good, but not great because I was in pain every time I ran. I had an operation on the hamstring after the Games, which caused a problem in the hip. It was holding me back and, although I went all over the country to see different doctors, I couldn't shake it off.

"I'm still carrying it today. But when I started taking the steroids they got me through some difficult training camps. At times like that you explore every avenue to get by. But the irony was that the drugs didn't really help my performance. I've analysed my running results and all the weights I've lifted and they were not any better taking steroids.

"My advice to anyone would be to stay clear of drugs. I wouldn't want other people to make the same mistake as me because I now have huge regrets. It cost me my sporting career, the chance of an Olympic medal in Nagano, which had been my life's ambition, and has left a stigma against my name. But I'm serving my punishment and now that I won't be competing again I'm hoping the life ban will eventually be lifted so that I can put something back into the sport."

هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND BACK POSSESSES VISION TO FOLLOW IN FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREATS

Catt seeking to enjoy himself to the full

GERALD DAVIES



Pleads the case for a specialist

SUGGEST to a young player newly infatuated with rugby that he play at full back and his heart might sink. He might have had visions of being among the fancy Dans at half back, say, or to be a prime mover in midfield, or among the dynamos of the back-row forwards. Players, in other words, who are in the thick of things and always talked about. These are the places where leaders are born.

To be at full back is made to appear like demotion; that bourne where mere journeymen players are sent. Players who cannot quite make it elsewhere, not quite up to speed, not quite with an eye for the gap, their passing not quite accurate or slick enough. Players of middling, not fully rounded, gifts save that they can kick the ball with both feet and where, once, the place-kickers could be found.

Often, this was the quality that kept them in the side. But this is no longer the safeguard that once it was. Nowadays, place-kickers can be found anywhere. John Eales, of Australia, is a lock, Christophe Lamaison, of France, is a centre, while Andrew Mehrtens is the New Zealand fly half.

The full back's other great quality is, of course, courage: he might be seen as brave under the high ball.

The full back is perceived, then, as a "not-quite" sort of player. His gifts are not specific enough to make him a specialist. This can be frustrating.

Mike Catt may have felt like this after being chosen in the position for the match against France tomorrow. He has played there before but he has made his mark in the glory positions of fly half and centre. He has not quite got it in him to make either position his own, nor to encourage whole-hearted confidence in others around him.

Catt invariably knows what needs to be done. He has what is referred to as "vision". But his talents have not been honed to the finer detail, to make things happen as an individual performer might wish. Like his running action, which lacks fluency, he is not quite the finished, polished product to occupy the mid-field. Thus he has appeared a bit rootless, a bird of passage. "Where can we fit him in?" you can hear the selectors ponder. "We've got to have him," they say. But where?

This might be thought of as negative. But the point may be that this is exactly the kind of unorthodox player the full back position requires, with the temperament of the arrogant maverick to match. "Sound" was the compliment most often heard of good full backs, or "reliable", perhaps. Take the ball cleanly. Kick safely to touch. Get in the tackles. But above all, the full back should know his modest and subordinate place in the greater scheme of things. This was what was expected.

But the greatest full backs have cocked an almighty snook at such presumption. We need not go back too far in search of some of the best examples. Think of the line. Pierre Villepreux drew for France and that led to the glamour and the glory of Serge Blanco. Think of the iconic J. P. R. Williams, of Wales, his running as free-flowing as his long hair. And the mesmerising legerdemain of Andy Irvine, of Scotland, and the magnetism of Gavin Hastings, his countryman, Andre Joubert, of South Africa, and John Gallagher, of New Zealand, also transformed the potential of their teams by the panache of their attacking play.

The undisputed brilliance of each one illuminated the game. No rugby correctness, as blandly recorded in a handy instruction manual. They were adventurous in their play, cavalier in mood.

Full back is a position rarely given its due, marked down and underrated. Its possibilities are rarely tested, its ambitions forced to be dormant. Yet no player has a greater vista of the game. The choices are there before him. These opportunities represent a vast change in tactics.

In Will Carling's great England team the full back remained the position that was not fully fledged. This might have provided the extra dimension they so frequently sought and which would have provided the finishing touch. Lack of courage or desire meant that the full back was kept safely out of the way.

Christian Cullen, of New Zealand, is the present manifestation of the full back's inspiring art. The inclusion of Catt suggests that England intend to follow a similar course. Clive Woodward must hope that his new full back will quickly recognise the sublime, but too often hidden, virtues of his position.



DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Catt looks for the next option in an England training session. His attacking skills will be under scrutiny in Paris

Saracens spur Wallace to rejoin the fold

Mark Souster meets the Ireland wing given yet another chance

When the Irish Rugby Football Union handed out lucrative contracts to its elite exiled players last year and Richard Wallace found himself checking his post in vain, he ruefully accepted that his career as an internationwal wing threequarter — which had spanned five years and brought him 25 caps — was at an end. The fall guy had fallen out of favour for good. Or so it seemed.

"Knowing I was out of favour was a blessing in disguise," Wallace, 30, who last played against Western Samoa 15 months ago, said. "It enabled me to relax, reappraise what I was doing and concentrate on enjoying and making a success of my new career at Saracens. I didn't give a second thought to Ireland."



Wallace: stronger

When Kyran Bracken trotted across the club's training ground last week to congratulate him on his selection against Scotland tomorrow, Wallace did not believe him. "We are always playing practical jokes on one another. But when it sunk in it was almost like being awarded the first cap again."

That first cap was against Namibia in 1992. After the Five Nations Championship the next year, he was called up as a replacement on the British Isles tour to New Zealand. A broken leg in 1994 forced him to miss his country's tour to Australia but, having fought his way back into Ireland's World Cup squad, he played every game until once again being dropped for the quarter-final against France. He was Ireland's hokey-cokey kid, in, out, in, out and shaken all about.

A career that appeared to be heading for the buffers got back on track with his move to Saracens in 1996. "I was at the stage when I had to go professional or give up rugby and concentrate on work [as a finance broker]. I had no intention of going over the water but my brother, Paul, had just joined Saracens from Blackrock and I realised I didn't want to spend the rest of my life wondering what might have been."

He now shares a flat in Southgate with his brother, an outstanding success with the Lions in South Africa. The game tomorrow will be their first Five Nations match together.

Wallace is upbeat about Ireland's prospects. "In terms of skill levels we are as good as anyone. What has let us down is our tendency to fade in the last quarter. We weren't used to the intensity. Now that we've all had a year of professionalism and more of us are playing in England, where we are exposed to big games week in and week out, things will improve.

"If we can put Brian Ashton's ideas into practice on the pitch, I'm confident about what we can achieve. But we do need to beat Scotland. Personally, I am stronger and physically bigger than I was and I am more prepared for international rugby than ever before. Working at Saracens with players like Pienaar, Sella and Lynagh has made sure of that," he said.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

TAMPERE, Finland: Indoor meetings: Men: 60m: 1, R Esmie (Can), 6.70sec; 2, D Braithwaite (GB), 6.71. 100mc,1, F Fredericks (Nam), 10.20. 110mi hurdles: 1, A Jarret (GB), 13.48. 300m hurdles: 1, M Dinsdale (Jam), 36.02. Triple jump: 1, J Edwards (GB), 17.23m. Pole vault: 1, S Bubka (Ukr) 5.80. Shot: 1, M Halvari (Fin) 19.79. Women: 100m: 1, C Arron (Fr) 11.18sec. 800m: 1, M Evans (Swe) 2min 1.59sec. High jump: 1, Y Aleksandrova (Russ) 1.91m.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 110 Dallas 99; Washington 104 Cleveland 88, Miami 98 Philadelphia 84; Minnesota 95 New York 88. Utah 101 Chicago 93; Sacramento 101 Denver 99; Seattle 104 Indiana 97; LA Lakers 122 Portland 115.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham Bullets 108 Watford Royals 89.

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Sheffield Sharks 103 London Leopards 85.

MEN'S EUROLEAGUE: Group A: Olympiakos Piraeus (Gr) 73 Porto 54 Group E: Efes Pilsen (Tur) 86 Croatia Split 75. Group H: AEK Athens 65 Hapoel Jeruselem 51; Teamsystem Bologna 80 Ulkerspor (Tur) 74.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne (third day of four) Victoria 391-9 dec and 157-3 (D M Jones 63 not out); Western Australia 327-7 dec (B P Julian 121 not out). Sydney (second day of four) Tasmania 202 and 129-4; New South Wales 200 (M A Taylor 65, D Marsh 7-57). Brisbane (second day of four) Queensland 236 and 85-5 (B Young 5-64), South Australia 218 (J James 4-46).

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CUP: Fourth-round replays: Barnsley 3, Tottenham Hotspur 1; Newcastle 2, Stevenage 1.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Middlesbrough 3 Tranmere Rovers 0.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Ryman League 3 Comb Services 0.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Farsley Celtic 1 Worksop 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division:; Charlton 2 Luton 0; Ipswich 3 Swindon 1; Portsmouth 5 West Ham 3; Wimbledon 2 Crystal Palace 1. Postponed: Brighton v Watford; Southampton v Millwall.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool 2 Blackburn 0; Sheffield Wednesday 0 Manchester United 2. Second division: Carlisle 2 Shrewsbury 0. League Cup: Group one: Wrexham 0 Oldham 0. Group six: Scarborough 0 Rotherham 1.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Walsall Wood 3 Basingstoke 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 3 Stourport 1; Wolverhampton 1 Tividale 7.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 2 Sheppey 4; Corinthian 0 Crockenhill 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Chichester 0 Wick 2.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Didcot 1 Burnham 3.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Continental Star 0 Kings Heath 1; Studley B K L 3, Massey Ferguson 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Cowes Sports 3 BAT 0.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division north: Toddington 1 Langford 0.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND INVITATION CUP: Third round: Stapenhill 3 Blakenall 4 (aet 3-3 after 90min).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Brislington 4 Bristol Manor Farm 0.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Forres Mechanics 0, Buckie Thistle 3; Lossiemouth 2 Fraserburgh 3; Nairn County 0 Peterhead 3.

THE STAR LEINSTER SENIOR CUP: Semi-final: Cherry Orchard 2 Monaghan 0.

SPANISH CUP: Quarter-final, first leg: Alaves 3 Deportivo la Coruna 1; Real Zaragoza 3 Real Betis 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Guingamp 2 Toulouse 0; Cannes 2 Nantes 3, RC Lens 3 Lyon 0; Auxerre 0 Metz 0; Marseilles 1 Bordeaux 0; Le Havre 5 Chateauroux 0; Montpellier 2 Paris Saint-Germain 1.

DUTCH CUP: Third round: Heracles Almelo 1 Vitesse Arnhem 3, NAC Breda 5 Holmond Sport 0.

PORTUGUESE CUP: Quarter-finals: Gil Vicente 1 Benfica 1 (aet: 1-1 after 90min); Braga 3 Sporting Lisbon 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90min); Freamunde 0 Porto 4; Boavista 2 Uniao Leiria 2 (aet: 2-2 after 90min).

CONCACAF GOLD CUP: Costa Rica 7 Cuba 2 (at Oakland, California).

SCHOOLS MATCH: Vimto Girls Trophy; Under-16: Derrick Wood, Kent 2 Hatch End HS, Middlesex 0

GOLF

SYDNEY: Greg Norman International: Leading first-round scores (Aus unless stated): 68: J Cooper, S Allen. 67: D Ecob, J M Olazábel (Sp). 66: G Norman, N O'Hern, N Price (Zim), P Devenport (NZ), R Gibson (Can), R Floyd (US), S Thompson (NZ), B Forrester, D Small (NZ), G Nicklaus (US), P Lonard, S Appleby. 69: C Jones, J Townsend (US), J Cook (US), M Farry (Fr), P Gow, P O'Malley, P Senior, R Raymond (GB) T Carolan, N Kerry. 70: A Percey, A Palmer, C Rymer (US), I Susic, K Druce, K Falton, M Barry, S Laycock, S Leaney, A Colbert. (GB) C Parry, D Dunakey (US), R Allaby, R Daws, S Ellington, G Coles, T Power. Other scores: 71: J Nicklaus (US) 72: J-L Guepy (Fr). 73: J Robson (GB). 74: D Carter (GB). 75: C Campbell (GB). 78: P Teravainen (US). Disqualified: B Jackson (GB).

DURBAN: Vodacom Mercedes Benz South African Open: Leading first-round scores (SA unless stated): 64: E Els. 66: I Garrido (Sp), G Chalmers (Aus), M McNulty (Zim), M Hallberg (Swe). 67: T van der Watt. 68: D Frost, J Remsey (Fr). 69: P Sjoland (Swe), S Webster (GB), R Kaplan, C Dawson, N Henning, A Hunter (GB), A McLardy, I Palmer, A Cruse, T Gogale (Ger), P Affleck (GB). 70: G Hutcheon (GB), J van de Velde (Fr), D Peppas, J Hawkes, C Williams, W Coetsee, F Nobilo (NZ), T Johnstone (Zim), G Evans (GB), H Thui (Ger), M Gortana, U van den Berg, A da Silva (Zim), P Price (GB).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 2 Boston 2 (OT); Pittsburgh 2 Washington 2 (OT); Carolina 3 Tampa Bay 3 (OT); New Jersey 2 Ottawa 0; NY Islanders 4 Montreal 2; Toronto 3 St Louis 2; Dallas 1 Philadelphia 0; San Jose 3 Edmonton 0; Anaheim 3 NY Rangers 2

EXPRESS CUP: Ayr Scottish Eagles 6 Newcastle Cobras 1.

RUGBY UNION

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: Group C: Moseley 17 Bristol 18

TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP: Third division: Glasgow Southern 22 Glenrothes 16.

CLUB MATCH: Royal Navy 17 Combined London OB 31 (at US Portsmouth)

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Fifth leg (Auckland to São Sebastiao): Positions (at 12.00GMT yesterday, with miles to São Sebastiao) 1, Toshiba (US) 5,705.2; 2, Swedish Match (Swe) 5,713 3, 3, Chessie Racing (US) 5,714 8; 4, Merit Cup (Monaco) 5,716 8; 5, Silk Cut (GB) 5,719.1; 6, EF Language (Swe) 5,719 8; 7, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 5,778.3; 8, EF Education (Swe) 5,779; 9, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 5,844.3

SKI JUMPING

SAPPORO, Japan: World Cup: 1, A Widhoelzl (Austria) (134m, 132) 283.8pts; 2, J Somlinen (Fin) (129.5, 128) 264.0; 3, J Ahonen (Fin) (133, 119) 258.1; 4, A Higashi (Japan) (132, 120) 256.1; 5, K Funaki (Japan) (122.5, 125) 253.6; 6, D Thoma (Ger) (120.5, 132.5) 252.9. Leading World Cup positions: 1, Funaki 889pts; 2, Thoma 721; 5, Widhoelzl 655. 6, P Peterka (Slovenia) 638.

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE: Benson and Hedges Masters: Second round: N Bond (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-2; S Hendry (Scot) bt S Lee (Eng) 6-1. Quarter-final: M Williams (Wales) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 6-3.

TENNIS

MARSEILLES: Marseilles Open: First round: F Roig (Sp) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6, T Enqvist (Swe) bt J Bunito (Sp) 6-4, 6-3. Second round: R Krajicek (Holl) bt S Grosjean (Fr) 6-3, 5-5 ret; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt M Göllner (Ger) 7-5, 6-1. D Vacek (Cz) bt A Porras (Sp) 6-1, 6-1

SPLIT: Croatia Indoor tournament: First round: M Sinner (Ger) bt H T Johansson (Swe) 7-6, 6-4; D Sanguinetti (It) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 1-6, 4-4 ret. Second round: K Carlsen (Den) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 6-3, 6-7, 6-1; Jan Novak (Cz) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-1, 7-5, R Schuttler (Ger) bt A Mronov (Russ) 6-1, 6-0; M Damm (Cz) bt J Stemerink (Holl) 6-4, 6-3; M Rosset (Switz) bt R Vasek (Cz) 6-3, 6-1

TOKYO: Toray Pan Pacific Open: First round: M A Vento (Ven) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-0, 6-3; S Reeves (US) bt Yoon-Jeong Cho (S Kor) 6-3, 6-4, N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt M Sánchez-Lorenzo (Sp) 6-1 6-1, J Kruger (SA) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-4, 7-1. J Kruger (SA) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-4, 7-6. Second round: M Hingis (Switz) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-1 6-0; I Majoli (Cro) bt Li Fang (China) 6-3, 3-0, ret

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA Soldeu	50	95	good	powder	good	fine	-4	3/2
(Very good skiing on some fresh snow; fairly busy)								
AUSTRIA Kitzbühel	7	92	good	varied	art	sun	0	28/1
(Good skiing on the upper slopes; lower wearing thin)								
Söll	20	80	good	packed	art	sun	-2	24/1
(Mostly very good skiing; artificial snow being made)								
FRANCE Alpe d'Huez	98	265	good	packed	good	sun	2	21/1
(Excellent skiing at all levels; crisp firm snow)								
Les Arcs	124	265	good	varied	fair	fine	0	25/1
(Very good skiing, clear, bright and sunny)								
Avoriaz	125	155	good	packed	hard	sun	-1	21/1
(Very good skiing on the north-facing slopes)								
Méribel	90	120	fair	varied	fair	fine	1	21/1
(Best skiing in the morning; snow compact in afternoon)								
Val Thorens	130	300	good	packed	hard	sun	0	21/1
(Excellent piste skiing; hard spots on lowest runs)								
ITALY Livigno	70	145	hard	varied	hard	fine	-5	20/1
(Snow cover lasting extremely well due to cold weather)								
SWITZERLAND Mürren	60	100	good	varied	good	fine	-2	22/1
(Good skiing on Schilthorn and Wintbregg)								
Villars	30	100	good	varied	good	fine	0	21/1
(Great skiing generally; south-facing slopes soft)								
Zermatt	55	125	good	varied	art	sun	-2	21/1
(Upper slopes skiing very well)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League
Third division
Colchester v Swansea (7.45)
Leyton Orient v Peterborough (7.45)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon v Bangor City (7.45); Inter Cable-Tel v Cwmbran (7.30).

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: S and L Corby v Stotfold (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

A international matches
France v England
(at Tours, 7.0)
Ireland v Scotland
(at Donnybrook, 7.30)

Under-21 international matches
France v England
(at Mazamet, 6.0)
Ireland v Scotland
(at Clontarf, 2.30)

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup
Group A
Gloucester v Wakefield (7.45)
Northampton v West Hartlepool (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: British Grand Slam event (in Portsmouth)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Sheffield Sharks v Derby Storm (7.30)
HOCKEY: EHA men's indoor club championship (at Crystal Palace, 3.15)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Club match: Sheffield v London (7.30)
SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre)

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CHANGING TIMES

Tottenham cheered by Klinsmann

BY MATT DICKINSON



Klinsmann is carried off the field at Oakwell. Photograph: Paul Barker

NOT many breaks are going Tottenham Hotspur's way at the moment, but there was relief at White Hart Lane last night when it was revealed that Jürgen Klinsmann's fractured jaw may only keep him out of action for three weeks. Klinsmann consulted a jaw specialist yesterday afternoon after a night in Barnsley General Hospital.

There were initial fears that the injury, suffered during Tottenham's 3-1 defeat at Oakwell in an FA Cup fourth-round replay on Wednesday, might rule him out for the rest of the season and even the World Cup.

The 33-year-old, however, appeared to be in little pain when he was discharged yesterday morning, and a London surgeon confirmed that no operation would be necessary. Klinsmann has been told the bone should heal itself, although he may return to Germany for treatment.

Arjan de Zeeuw, the Barnsley defender involved in the collision, said: "We both went for a ball. I fell backwards and my knee came up. I think he fell forward and hit my knee. I heard a crack and, at first, I thought it was my shin-pad. Then I saw that he was on the ground. The physio started screaming. I think at first they were worried that he had swallowed his tongue."

Christian Gross, the Spurs head coach, who has won just four times in 12 games since arriving from Grasshopper Zurich, took his side across the Pennines yesterday to prepare for the game at Blackburn Rovers tomorrow.

Les Ferdinand, the Spurs striker, has risked a misconduct charge from the Football Association by making an outspoken attack on Gerald Ashby, the referee at Barnsley. Ashby sent off Stephen Clemence, the midfield player, for diving after an earlier booking and Ferdinand could not contain his anger yesterday.

"I think he was an absolute disgrace," he said. "Every week you see managers and players complain about the referees, but this was the worst display of refereeing I've ever seen in my life — and I've played park football. I know I will get hammered by the FA for that, but that's how bad it was."

Ashby, however, stood by his decision and claimed that diving was a growing menace in the English game. "It is a sad reflection of the game that players are trying to deceive opponents and referees, and will do everything to get something they are not entitled to," the Worcester official, who retires at the end of the season, said.

"The FA have been very supportive and they take action when they see situations or from the information they receive in referees' reports. But a lead needs to be taken by other people as well, and that means players and managers saying 'enough is enough, let's stop this'."

Manchester City have put 15 players on the transfer list in an attempt to cut the clubs' wage bill. Of the players made available, only Paul Beesley was signed by Frank Clark, the present manager. Nigel Clough, the former England player, and Eddie McGoldrick, signed from Arsenal, are also on the list.

Theo Zagorakis, the captain of Greece, signed for Leicester City yesterday. The midfield player joins the club from PAOK Salonika for £750,000.

Striker reduces England options by rejecting squad place

Sutton takes decision to drop out

Oliver Holt on a move that could nip an international career in the bud

SHAUN BOTERILL / ALLSPORT



Sutton is unlikely to put on an England shirt again while Hoddle is in charge

CHRIS SUTTON, the Blackburn Rovers centre forward who has refused to play any part in England's approaching B international with Chile, last night acknowledged that his stance could have serious implications for his career, but emphasised that he stood by his decision not to play in a fixture he felt would have left him on "a hiding to nothing".

After consultations with his club manager, Roy Hodgson, and his own family, Sutton, the joint leading scorer in the FA Carling Premiership, rang Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, on Wednesday afternoon to inform him of his decision to withdraw from the B squad because he was disappointed to have been left out of the senior party.

The ramifications of his actions began to sink in yesterday and, while there was concern that Sutton may have sacrificed his international career in a fit of pique, there was some sympathy, too, for a fine striker who appeared to have been treated unfairly when he was superseded in the pecking-order by a player such as Les Ferdinand, who has had a mediocre season with Tottenham Hotspur.

As Hoddle came to terms with the first serious rebuff he has had in his 20 months at the helm of the national game, Sutton spoke about his surprising decision. He said that he had considered his position carefully and discussed it with others and still felt there was only one course of action for him to take.

> 'I have done what I think is right. It is not a case of not caring'

Hoddle issued a statement from the Football Association headquarters at Lancaster Gate. "I spoke to Chris Sutton yesterday," he said, "and I tried to persuade him not to pull out of the squad, as did his club manager, Roy Hodgson. It is his decision. If anybody does not want to play for their country at any level, I will not force them."

Sutton, who was in Lancashire preparing for Blackburn's home game with Spurs tomorrow, said he had expected to keep his place in the senior squad and had been dismayed when others had been promoted above him. From the FA, the message was that Sutton had misconstrued the situation, that he would have started the B international at The Hawthorns on Tuesday, that it was a chance for him to push his claims for a place in the World Cup 22.

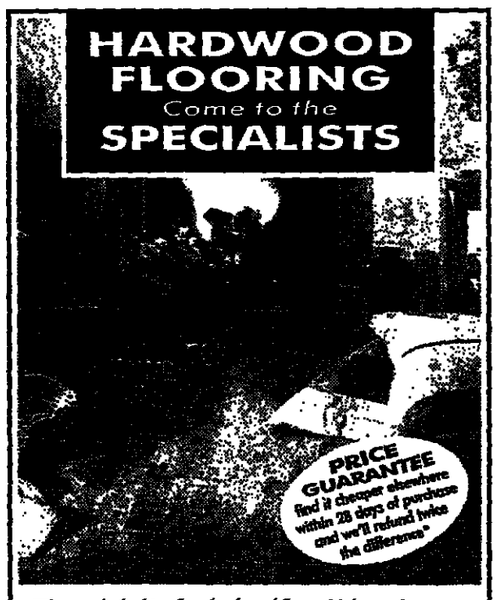
Sutton, though, was unrepentant. "I stress that this is not a hasty decision," he said. "I have not rushed into it. I am aware of the implications; of course I am. But I believe I have done the right thing in the circumstances.

"I was called up into the senior squad for the last game, I came on as sub and thought that, looking purely at form and the fact that certain other players are just coming back from injury, this time I really had a chance of a place in the senior squad, if not an opportunity to start.

"I regard playing in a B international as being on a hiding to nothing. That is what I have discovered in my experiences in the past. If you play well, you still need to prove yourself at the higher level and it proves nothing. If you play poorly, you are discarded.

"I have acted in a correct and proper manner by phoning Glenn Hoddle and explaining my reasons to him. I have had to do what I think is right. It is not a case of not caring, I do care."

There was no word from Hoddle about what may happen in the future, but it is unlikely Sutton that will play for England again while he is in charge. With Robbie Fowler out of favour and out-of-sorts, Ian Wright showing his age at last, Stan Collymore fighting a miserable season at Aston Villa, Ferdinand delicate and Alan Shearer only just recovering from a serious injury, England's striking reserves appear to be running dangerously low.



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Dalglish grudging to the last

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BACK at their hotel deep into the early hours, the three Stevenage Borough fans lived every minute again as they watched the rerun of the 2-1 defeat in the FA Cup fourth-round replay against Newcastle United. They cheered each goal attempt by Stevenage — not that there were many — they roared at the saves of Des Gallagher, the goalkeeper, and they raised the roof when Gary Crawshaw scored near the end.

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, then appeared on the screen. The three lads were not aware of his mutterings at St James' Park, yet in the space of two minutes, as his sour, scathing remarks were replayed before them, their evening had been ruined. "I can't believe what he's saying," one said. "I've had enough. I'm off to bed." The others swiftly followed.

Quite why Dalglish had chosen so to denigrate Stevenage's verbal sparring, which was no worse than that heard weekly in the FA Carling Premiership, is perplexing. Surely he must have realised that many of the comments purported to have originated in Hertfordshire had been skilfully manipulated by sections of the media.

Would it have been so hard for him to congratulate Stevenage for their displays over the two matches — which he did, anyway — and then concede that, although a few silly words might have been spoken, there were no hard feelings. After all, was it not he who spearheaded a recent advertising campaign? Motto: "It's good to talk."

He could not. "We gave them respect but I don't think they gave us much back," Dalglish said. "We wish them well in the FA Trophy. We hope they get beaten in the next round." Paul Fairclough, the Stevenage manager, replied: "If he said that, he's a very, very sad man." Dalglish can now consider his prospective purchase of Gary Speed, if Everton will lower their £6 million asking price by £500,000. He may also need to replace Steve Watson, who sustained a broken foot on Wednesday and will be missing for two months, which includes his scheduled appearance for England B against Chile B on Tuesday.

With John Beresford having been sold to Southampton for £1.5 million yesterday, subject to a medical, it was business as usual for Dalglish. The Stevenage spat is history.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 50

GRAPHEME

(a) The class of letters and other symbols representing a phonemic (the smallest unit of language). Thus the grapheme "f" consists of the allographs f, ff, F, Ff, gh, ph and Pf. As in fan, huffy, Fingal, florde, cough, graph and Philip.

PANDIATONICISM

(c) The technique of free use of all seven degrees of the diatonic scale, melodically, harmonically or contrapuntally. Wide intervallic skips occur and component voices enjoy complete independence.

CEMENTITE

(b) The form in which the carbon content of steel is combined with iron as Fe_3C. This hard, brittle substance is dispersed in the various forms of iron, whose properties depend on heat treatment etc.

CLOYER

(c) A term in the ancient slang of thieves for somebody who intruded into the profits of young sharpers by claiming a share. Middleton and Dekker, 1611: "Then there's a cloyer or snap that dogges my new brother."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Ng5! leaves Black without a decent reply.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A good deed backfires



Windsor Davies stars (BBC1, 9.30pm)

The Grand
ITV, 9.00pm

The fictional Manchester hotel continues to yield watchable drama, much of it inspired by the history of the period which is shortly after the First World War. One of tonight's plotlines draws on the plight of young soldiers whose reward for serving King and country was to end up destitute in civvy street. One such is William (Andrew Lancel), a wartime comrade of Stephen (Ifan Meredith), who is running the Grand's offshoot, the Manhattan Club. Stephen gives his old friend a job and soon regrets it, for there is an incident, the police are called and William has to be hidden in The Grand, with only Tim Healy's hall porter in on the secret. Meanwhile the chambermaid Lynne (Naomi Radcliffe) tries her luck as a music-hall singer and falls victim to a mean and lecherous boss, another tale of the times.

Mortimer's Law
BBC1, 9.30pm

Succeeding Hetty Wainthropp in the Friday night drama slot is another woman detective (in the broad sense) whose patch is far from the mean streets of the big city. Amanda Roof's Rachel Mortimer is a spirited if somewhat young coroner, based in rural mid-Wales, with a policeman (Nicholas McGaughey) as her assistant. At least that is what the series will be about from next week. The function of episode one is to explain how Mortimer and the detective constable are thrown reluctantly together after being adversaries in a court case. Although it does not dwell on its corpses, the show must necessarily deal in sombre material. As Mortimer's crusty old mentor (beautifully played by Windsor Davies) remarks: "It's all part of life, you know, dying." But a drama intended as entertainment must guard against becoming too bleak.

Frasier
Channel 4, 10.00pm

The 100th edition finds the Seattle sitcom trying too hard to do something special and ending up with something less than par for a normally impressive course. But the standard has been so good recently that one dip can be excused. The script decides that the 100th episode shall coincide with the 1,000th edition of Frasier's radio show. To mark the milestone the city proclaims Frasier Crane Day, with a public rally in his honour and an appearance by the Mayor (who is played by the real Seattle Mayor). The joke is that Kelsey Grammer's Frasier decides to walk to his big occasion, becomes involved in mishaps with brother Niles and struggles to get there on time. It is all a shade laboured but has the merit of taking us out of the studio for once and giving us a glimpse of the city streets and landmarks.

Game On
BBC2, 10.05pm

The final episode in the current series has Mandy (Samantha Janus) all set to be married to Archie, but seasoned sitcom watchers will be wary. The joke which has sustained Bernadette Davis's comedy so far is that however much they try to get away, Mandy and her flatmates, Martin (Matthew Cottle) and Matthew (Neil Stuke), are condemned to be stuck with each other's company. The marriage of one of them would mean the end of the show, or at least a change to a very different one. So it is no surprise that hardly have the opening credits rolled than Mandy is wondering whether Archie is the right man. But if the route from hen night to altar is strewn with mishaps, Davis's script is far from predictable and there is much black humour to relish. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Whistle Down the Wind
Radio 2, 9.15pm

This is the story of a group of children who find in a barn a copy of the pre-1997 BBC policy on children's programmes and set about trying to protect it from a group of sinister adults, led by a man called Birt. Oh all right, it isn't. It is of course Mary Hayley Bell's story of a group of children, Brat, Swallow and Poor Baby, who find Jesus in their barn and form a secret group to protect Him from the grown-ups. The reason it is being transmitted at 9.15 at night is to give children yet another reason to say: "But it's Saturday tomorrow, p-l-e-a-s-e can I stay up?" and thus give their parents yet another reason to detest the BBC. For those who can hear this delightful novel, Charlotte Coleman is the reader.

The Acoustics of Everyday Life
Radio 3, 8.25pm

It is perhaps surprising how rarely radio puts on programmes that exploit the medium's principal advantage over all others — its expertise in giving the listener a unique insight into sounds. This short, absorbing feature helps to correct that. Derek Sugden, who designed the acoustics of the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, presents a look at more prosaic contexts for sound transmission. His settings range from the sea to the London Underground and his purpose is to show what sounds appeal to us and why they work so pleasingly on our ears. This is a programme that will justify a second transmission when digital radio is in our homes, though that moment is several years away. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Clive Warren 6.00 Pete Tong: Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Kari Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 The Michael Feinstein Songbook 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 Whistle Down the Wind: Book Choice 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 The Arts Programme 12.05am Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Rescue on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worricker 7.00 News Extra 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Alan Green's Sportstalk 8.30 Friday Sport. Includes second-half coverage of the third division game between Leyton Orient and Peterborough United 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Johnny Boy, Dan, Holly and Jamie 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel 11.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Loitering with Intent 7.30 Best on Record 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News; News in German (6/8 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Learning World 9.30 BBC English: The Art of Writing 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Assignment 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Focus on Faith 12.00 News 12.06pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 On the Rocks 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: Alternative 3.00 News; News in German (6/8 only) 3.05 Radiobak Extra 3.15 Private View 3.30 Science in Action 4.00 News 4.15 Wisdom of the World 4.30 The World Today; News in German (6/8 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Focus on Faith 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack: Alternative 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack: Alternative 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am From the Weeklies 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Foot Play 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Science in Action 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 Off The Shelf

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour, crafty cook Michael Barry preparing marmalade cake and High Flyer and Record of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F); English Concert under Trevor Pinnock 3.00 Jamie Crick 5.30 Newsnight with John Brunning. Includes Dr Mark Porter looking at healthcare stories. Plus Baker's Choice with Richard Baker 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 9.00 Evening Concert. Beethoven (Coriolan Overture; Violin Concerto in D); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 1 in G minor) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Brahms (Der Abend, Op 64 No 2; Abendlied, Op 92 No 3); Debussy (Prelude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Beethoven (Overture: Egmont); Elgar (Chanson de Nuit; Chanson de Matin); Chabrier (Espana); Gershwin, orch Grofe (Rhapsody in Blue, original version)

9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobday. Tchaikovsky (Overture: Hamlet); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 6 in B flat, K238); Trad, arr Britten (The Soldier and the Sailor); Bonny at Morn; The Shooting of his Dear); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 9)

10.30 Artist of the Week: Christa Ludwig

11.00 Sound Stories, with Peggy Reynolds. After losing Eurydice for the second time, Orpheus wandered aimlessly. He offended Dionysus who set his followers on him, and they tore him limb from limb. The Muses found Orpheus's lyre, and took it to heaven to form a constellation

12.00 Composer of the Week: Lalo

1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A programme of tango presented by Nicola Heywood Thomas. Grupo Encuentros of Buenos Aires under Alicia Terzian. Includes Alicia Terzian (Argentino Hasta la Muerte); Enrique Cadicamo (Los Mareados); Jukka Tiensuu (Tango Lunar); Lucio Demare (Malena)

2.00 The BBC Archive. Humphrey Burton introduces a selection of William Walton Premieres broadcast by the BBC. Includes Cello Concerto (1st mvt) performed by Gregor Piatigorsky; and the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Malcolm Sargent

4.00 Music Restored, with Andrew Manze. Duets by Mendelssohn and Marie-Martin Marcel Marin (r)

4.45 Music Machine. Verity Sharp looks at small-scale instruments, discovers an incredible mechanical violin and is entertained by some early jukeboxes

5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty talks to David Willcocks, the musical director of the Bach Choir about his 35-year relationship with the choir and his childhood memories of being conducted by Edward Elgar

7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century). Live from the Ulster Hall in Belfast. Raphael Oleg, violin, Ulster Orchestra under Vernon Handley. Alcorn (Mambo for Orchestra, first performance); Dvořák (Serenade for Strings) 8.25 The Acoustics of Everyday Life. Sea Choice 8.45 Concert, part two. Elgar (Violin Concerto in B minor)

9.50 Poetaphysic. Bedtime Stories — Androgyny. What is the real meaning of androgyny for those born neither male nor female? (5/5)

10.10 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker introduces studio recordings from the BBC Symphony Orchestra Composers' Forum 1996. Includes William Mival (On the Ringstreet); Stephen Roberts (Ultima Thule); David Bruce (Arabesques); Dario Marianelli (The Art of Road Crossing) BBC Symphony Orchestra under Pascal Rophe

11.30 Composers of the Week: Le Sur (r)

12.30am No Easy Walk, with John Fordham. The story of South African jazz over the past 50 years with pianist and composer Chris McGregor (3/6) (r)

1.00 Through the Night, with Penny Gore

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's castaway is the mystery writer Colin Dexter (r)

9.45 Feedback. Presented by Chris Dunkley

10.00 (LW) An Act of Worship

10.00 (FM) News; Snobs, Blockers and Bodgers. Richard Coles explores the way in which Luton has been shaped by its main industry (2/3)

10.15 (LW) On These Days, with Sue Limb

10.30 Women's Hour. From Glasgow with Ruth Wishart

11.30 The Natural History Programme

12.00 News; You and Yours, with John Waite

12.25pm The Food Programme: Derek Cooper celebrates home cooking 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 (LW) Test Match Special: West Indies v England. Day two in Port of Spain

2.00 (FM) News; Classic Serial: The Last Chronicle of Barset. Anthony Trollope's The Barchester Chronicles, dramatised by Martyn Wade. The Vicar of Hogglestock is accused of stealing a cheque (1/5) (r)

3.00 (FM) News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor

4.00 (FM) News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow sees exhibitions at the Hayward Gallery featuring the work of Francis Bacon and Cartier Bresson

4.45 (FM) Short Story: The Year of the Cat, by Nawal Gadalla, read by Christopher Scott

5.00 (FM) PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 (FM) Six O'Clock News 6.30 (FM) Going Places. David Stafford presents more ideas for the weekend ahead

6.30 (LW) Test Match Special

7.00 (FM) News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 (FM) Pick of the Week, with Clyde Sarle

8.05 (FM) Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Leeds by panellists including Alan Beith, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats; Alan Duncan, Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party; and John Lloyd, associate editor of New Statesman magazine

8.50 (FM) Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins

9.15 (FM) Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 (FM) Kaleidoscope Feature: Landscape of Fear. Robert McNab presents a two-part documentary focusing on the lives of painters in Nazi-occupied Paris (r)

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Quarantine, by Jim Crace. The Whitbread Prize-winning novel, abridged by Pat McLoughlin, read by Sara Kestelman (10/10)

11.00 Week Ending. A satirical review of the week's news with Sally Grace, Jon Glover, Dave Lamb and Sarah Parkinson

11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Hannan and guests

11.45 Today in Parliament

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: A Spell of Winter, by Helen Dunmore (5/6) (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693; 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (1215-0550hrs). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

How do you tell a crisis from a bad-hair day?

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Stumbling across a couple of minutes of *Kilroy* this week, I realised that there is no pleasing some people. There was our snowy-haired host — great job, permanent suntan, a constant supply of women throwing themselves in front of his microphone — and what does he do? He has the great mid-life crisis haircut, the George Clooney-inspired trim that is short-at-the-sides, flat-on-the-top and has that ever so fashionable short fringe at the front.

It's now worn by so many men "of a certain age" in broadcasting that Clooney, who prides himself on being at the cutting edge of television hair, has wisely given it up. And so, apparently, has Kilroy-Silk: yesterday, just 24 hours after I spotted the change, he was back to swept-back and elegantly thinning. Either one of those hairstyles is a repeat or this mid-life crisis stuff is worse than I thought.

Anyway, to get back to the matter in hand, it was while I was watching last night's **Vets in Practice** (BBC1) that I remembered that as well as a mid-life crisis, there can also be a early-life crisis that often hits the young and ambitious in their mid-twenties. Poor Joe was bang in the middle of his. There he was — young, good-looking, highly-qualified, the sort of job most teenagers would give their eye teeth for and a beautiful blonde girlfriend who actually sends him out to buy her a string bikini. Joe, I wanted to say, life doesn't get any better than that. But I don't think he would have listened.

"I'm fed up with being all smiley and happy with all these different people," he moaned. "It's a bit wearing." When you're seeking sympathy, complaining about being smiley and happy is probably not the best way to go about it. What we see is a job where a single vitamin injection brings fertility to a barren tortoise and much happiness to its owner. What we see is Emma, his girlfriend, showing it's not just I rude, who can do the *Vets in Bath-towels* stuff that the plot increasingly requires. Stay, I wanted to shout — particularly as I wasn't paying attention towards the end of the last series and couldn't remember why he wanted to leave anyway — but it was too late. He'd resigned.

This may yet prove to be bad news for Joe, but it was good news for the series. Aware of the plethora of fly-on-the-wall clones and guessing that our appetite for sickly sweet sentiment might be fading just a little, the makers gave us more human interest in this opening episode and (thanks to Reggie, the Vietnamese pot-bellied pig) more humour.

Even the obligatory little fluffy kitten story seemed to have acquired a harder edge. "There's no guarantee we'll be able to pull him through," announced Alison, in front of three small children. After that, she was pretty much duty bound to save him, which she did thanks to a blood transfusion from her own cat and an awful lot of flea spray. Incidentally, Alison is getting married soon which, if the series continues in this sort of form, means it should be her turn with the bath-towel very shortly.

Whether it is all right for chaps to ogle on such occasions was one of the subjects considered in its customary depth in **The Truth About Women** (ITV), where for one week only a few men had been to join the hitherto all female cast of celebs. In practice what this meant was a bit of Peter Stringfellow (what wouldn't you give to see him with a Clooney?), a hint of Garry Bushell (been there, done it) and lots of David Thomas, a journalist who has turned loudly debunking feminism into a profession and a man whose fashionable fringe potential receded to zero some time ago.

On ogling, however, he's got firm views. Post-Chippendales, the old order has changed, he maintained, with as many women ogling now as men. "Women can no longer get hoity-toity about men going to see female lap-dancers." According to Bushell, most men couldn't help themselves anyway. "I'm a slave to my testosterone" which must be a help if you work for *The Sun*. Stringfellow, a man whose entire life seems to have been one long mid-life crisis, simply shared his favourite chat-up line with us. "Hello, I'm Peter Stringfellow and I own the place." It had worked for him at least 2,000 times, a figure he was not particularly proud of but, as he explained, he had been around since 1958.

It was all typically cerebral stuff, enlivened by the male journalist who bravely dressed up in drag (and ended up looking scarily like Lorraine from *EastEnders*) and by two moments of genuine surprise. One was Ann Widdecombe, clocking up her second prime-time appearance in five days, to reveal that she didn't think there was "anything wrong in wanting to be a bit glamorous: we all go through that stage, don't we?" The other was Frankie Dettori, owning up to what he wants in a woman. "For some reason I like to see a woman with dirty fingernails; I don't know why."

Which should lead us nicely onto **Blooms** (Channel 4) but doesn't, because it's not one of those frivolous, sexy gardening programmes (Friday evenings just aren't the same without Charlie Dimmock), but a serious one. I watched because I hope that my own mid-life crisis might involve growing roses (last night's subject) and, if thing are going really well, a lawn-tennis court. Dutifully, I scribbled down the names of a few varieties recommended by the head gardener at the Royal National Rose Society, only to lose heart when he revealed that the specimen I had particularly admired was 37 years old. By the magnificent look of it, another mid-life crisis to be solved by heavy pruning.

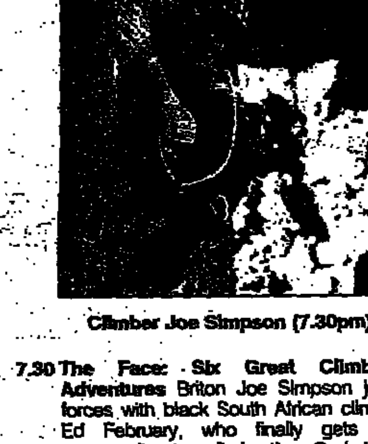
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (51709)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (21983)
9.00 All Over the Shop (8727167)
9.25 Change That (8739902)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (2730709)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (2756273)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (9582815)
11.35 What Would You Do? (3341525)
12.00 News (T) (8566235)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (1865964)
12.35 Going for a Song (6182544)
1.00 News (T) and weather (24070)
1.30 Regional News (T) (71148167)
1.40 The Weather Show (93928867)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (21863186)
2.10 Petrocelli (r) (8661051)
2.55 Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (r) (6546438)
3.30 Wiggly Park (5915902) **3.35** Playdays (4697506) **3.55** The Littlest Pet Shop (5990693) **4.05** Dennis the Menace (5971419) **4.30** L & K Friday (6112709)
4.55 Newsround Extra The opening of a music therapy centre in Bosnia, set up by Luciano Pavarotti and Bono of U2 (T) (7410167)
5.10 Blue Peter (T) (4959235)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (130254)
6.00 News (T) and weather (273)
6.30 Regional News (T) (525)
7.00 Big Break John Parrott, Joe Johnson and Ken Doherty are the guests (T) (5419)
7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (709)
8.00 Vets in Practice Trude asks her old tutor's advice on a rottweiler; Fiona attempts a dental operation on a reluctant police dog (T) (4167)
8.30 Keeping Up Appearances Hyacinth demonstrates her singing talents to Emmet (r) (T) (6902)
9.00 News (T) and weather (3896)
9.30 Mortimer's Law New legal drama series. A top woman barrister finds herself at a crossroads. With Amanda Root and Windsor Davies (T) (1400186)
10.40 Parkinson Chats to Peter O'Toole, Phil Collins and John Prescott (T) (419728)
11.35 Far and Away (1992) Ron Howard's romantic drama set in the 1890s, with Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Thomas Gibson and Cyril Cusack. A poverty-stricken Irish farmer is forced to act as servant to a wealthy landowner's daughter during a voyage to America, where it seems their problems are only just beginning (78172438) **WALES: 11.35** Two Lives (576457) **12.05am** FILM: The Four Seasons (260262)
1.50am Olympic Grandstand Jane Hoffen introduces live coverage of the opening ceremony of the XVIII Winter Games at the Minami Nagano Sports Park in Japan. Barry Davies describes the spectacle as 3,000 athletes and officials parade in front of a capacity 50,000 crowd, with the traditional raising of the five-ringed Olympic flag and the lighting of the Olympic flame (54157656)
4.00 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.10am Build a Better Business (5277475) **6.35** Time for You (T) (3172099) **7.00** See Hear Breakfast News (T) (3422032) **7.15** Teletubbies (r) (5620419) **7.40** Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (r) (7590490) **8.00** The Really Wild Show (r) (T) (1063490) **8.25** William's Wish Wellingtons (r) (2781148) **8.35** Johnson and Friends (r) (5060341) **8.45** The Record (6077070) **9.10** Music Makers (8883821) **9.30** Watch (7391713) **9.45** Come Outside (5448308) **10.00** Teletubbies (84964) **10.30** Look and Read (9775438) **10.50** Believe It or Not (9788902) **11.10** Landmarks (T) (5714186) **11.30** English File (5631) **12.00** Scene (15761)
12.30pm Working Lunch (74902)
1.00 The Little Polar Bear (34415322) **1.05** Pingu (34414693) **1.10** The Craft Hour: the perfect Wendy house and sandpit, machine embroidery (9615235)
2.10 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters The third quarter-final (61009709)
6.00 Nagano: The Grandstand Guide to the Winter Olympics with Sue Barker and Steve Rider, featuring a look at the prospects of British medal hopes Nicky Gooch, Sean Olsson and Douglas Dryburgh (T) (489099)
6.45 Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Quarter-final action (779419)

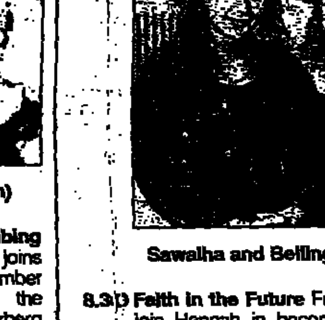


Climber Joe Simpson (7.30pm)

7.30 The Face: Six Great Climbing Adventures Briton Joe Simpson joins forces with black South African climber Ed February, who finally gets the opportunity to climb the Cederberg mountains outside Cape Town. Last in series (T) (821)
8.00 The Fred Dibnah Story Last in series (r) (T) (2709)
8.30 Gardening from Scratch A mini-wildflower meadow; sprucing up a patio; rejuvenating the lawn (T) (4544)
9.00 The Black Adder Can Edmund save the King from the Black Death? (r) (T) (334902)
9.35 Friday Night Armistice Satirical review of the week (648525)
10.05 Game On Last in series of the comedy about three flatmates. With Samantha Janus, Matthew Cottle and Neil Stuke (T) (526964)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (652506)
11.20 International Cricket: West Indies v England Highlights of the second day's play (150273)
11.50 Snooker Quarter-finals (453457)
12.50am Comedy Nation (4872945)
1.20 Space: Above and Beyond Sci-fi adventure series (T) (1821262)
2.45-2.50 Weather (1399945)
3.00-5.00 Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize: French (60026)

HTV

6.00 am GMTV (5937341)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (T) (8715322)
9.55 Regional News (T) (9182273)
10.00 The Time, The Place (T) (71490)
10.30 This Morning (T) (58324490)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (8562419)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6178341)
12.55 Wish You Were Here? (6153032) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (70152780) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (3185490)
2.50 WALES: Your Century (r) (T) (6430983)
2.50 Kidstuff (6430983)
3.20 News (T) (5816438)
3.25 Regional News (T) (5815709)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (1850902) **3.40** Timbuctoo (5997506) **3.50** Tom and Vicky (5986490) **4.00** Zzzap! (1596490) **4.15** Tiny Toon Adventures (r) (T) (6202964) **4.40** Gladiators: Train to Win (T) (6750728)
5.10 A Country Practice (5431815)
5.40 News (T) and weather (714506)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (868728)
6.25 Regional Weather (559693)
6.30 Regional News (T) (693)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (T) (3815)
7.30 Coronation Street Gail receives shocking news (T) (877)
8.00 The Bill Skase and Proctor investigate the stalking of a girl (T) (9235)



Sawalha and Bellingham (8.30pm)

8.30 Faith in the Future Faith is reluctant to join Hannah in becoming teetotal and celibate. With Lynda Bellingham and Julia Sawalha (T) (1070)
9.00 The Grand The hotel's reputation is at risk when a former comrade of Stephen turns up (2/10) (7983)
10.00 News (T) and weather (43544)
10.30 Regional News (792273)
10.40 Dharma and Greg American sitcom about a mismatched couple (T) (652815)
11.10 Friday Night Fever A fly-on-the-wall series capturing people who love to party (T) (122490)
11.40 Renegade Raines pursues a desperate criminal who has a tape recording that proves Reno's innocence (702235)
12.35am Live at Jongleurs (T) (4870587)
1.05 War of the Worlds (r) (6872668)
2.00 Not Fade Away Cathy Dennis chooses her favourite tracks (9712842)
2.55 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (r) (9883465)
3.25 Helter Skelter (T) (5123084)
4.15 Weekly World News (52380465)
4.40 Coach (22126007)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (27026)
5.30 News (42216)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6153032)
1.50 Our House (21846419)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5431815)
6.25-7.00 Central News (637709)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (96375475)
12.15am God's Gift (374736)
1.15 Pop Down the Pub (28262)
1.45 Robocop (1157587)
2.35 Planet Mirth (9889649)
3.00 Coach (49736)
3.30 The Time, the Place (29587)
4.00 Movie Club (52385910)
4.25 Central Jobfinder '98 (4278194)
5.20 Asian Eye (1993262)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8562419)
12.55 Home and Away (6153032)
1.25 Wish You Were Here? (59196235)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (3100709)
2.50-3.20 Westcountry Update (6430983)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5431815)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (53419)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (6153032)
2.25-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (6722964)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5431815)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (53419)
11.40 Charlie Grace (702235)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
1.55 Bringing Up Baby (21838490)
2.25-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (6722964)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5431815)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (637709)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (14693)
9.00 Ysgolion (290322)
11.30 Springhill (7099)
12.00 Ricki Lake (40457)
12.30pm Sesame Street (69070)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (11906983)
1.15 Tomos Y Tanc (11901438)
1.30 Film: A Woman's Face (81099)
3.30 Time Team Extra (159)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (506)
4.30 Countdown (490)
5.00 5 Pump (1769728)
5.15 Celfagati (7675709)
5.30 TV Dinners (970)
6.00 Newyddion (200780)
6.10 Heno (487631)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (134693)
7.25 Y Clwb Rygbi (548761)
8.00 Cefn Gwlad: Dai Price (7877)
8.30 Newyddion (9612)
9.00 Pawb a'i Farn (5525)
10.00 Brookside (519167)
10.35 Eurotrash (932254)
11.10 TFI Friday (918964)
12.15am The Mark Thomas Comedy Product (20620)
12.45 Film: The Witches (964736)
2.25 Film: Home at Seven (1052281)
3.55-5.00 Film: Dick Tracy (6400858)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (44419)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (14693)
9.00 Schools Off Limits (8710877) **9.25** Schools at Work (4599964) **9.30** Eureka! (T) (2193231) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (6908902) **10.02** Lost Animals (5760506) **10.10** Ulster Unearthed (T) (9054438) **10.30** Maths Book (3285896) **10.40** Top! En Español (9784186) **11.00** The Technology Programme (6416761) **11.15** Stage One (T) (6439612)
11.30 Springhill (r) (7099) **12.00** Sesame Street (40457) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (41051)
1.30 Two-Faced Woman (1941, b/w) FILM Greta Garbo's final picture. She plays a woman who poses as her notorious twin sister in order to win back her philandering husband. Also with Melvyn Douglas. Directed by George Cukor (11828065)
3.10 Making Money A comedy short (1148148) **3.30** Time Team Extra The Beaker people and their influence on Europe (T) (159) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (506) **4.30** Countdown (T) (6105419)
4.55 Ricki Lake Dating married men (8537308)
5.30 Pet Rescue Chinchillas (T) (970)
6.00 TFI Friday The guests include Frankie Dettori and Matthew Modine (44761)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (930693)
7.55 The Political Slot (461419)



Fr Lionel Fanthorpe (8.00pm)

8.00 Fortean TV Fr Lionel Fanthorpe visits a lake in Turkey where a dinosaur is believed to reside (4/8) (T) (7877)
8.30 Brookside Will Lindsey tell Peter the truth about the mugging? (T) (9612)
9.00 Ellen During the Thanksgiving holiday, Ellen befriends a homeless man (T) (6506)
9.30 Dressing for Breakfast Dave, Carla and Louise plot to wreck Mike's romantic treat for Sarah (T) (56506)
10.00 CHOICE **Frasier** The 100th episode and the radio psychologist celebrates his 1,000th phone-in show (T) (41186)
10.30 Eurotrash (T) (933983)
11.05 TFI Friday (r) (911051)
12.10am Flava Black music (4045378)
12.40 The Witches (1966) FILM Joan Fontaine in a Hammer horror. A headmistress stumbles upon a voodoo cult in an English village. Directed by Cyril Frankel (965465)
2.20 Home at Seven (1952, b/w) FILM directed by and starring Ralph Richardson as a man who loses four hours out of his life during which time he may have become a murderer and a thief (1053910)
3.50 Dick Tracy (1945, b/w) FILM Morgan Conway in the first in a season of films featuring the comic strip hero. William Berke directs (6401587)
4.55 Beat Specials (r) (4682804) **5.30** Terrytoons (r) (9148842)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (7479099)
7.00 Exclusive Special (r) (4120983) **7.30** Milkshake! (7818902) **7.35** Wimzie's House (r) (8780186) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (7337322) **8.30** WideWorld. Moving from junior to secondary school (T) (7336693)
9.00 Espresso (8247070) **10.00** Flight to Freedom (r) (T) (2263148) **10.30** Sunset Beach (T) (3675490) **11.10** Leeza (2793167)
12.00 5 News (T) (7347709) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (7395148) **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (4129254) **1.30** Was it Good for You? (r) (7394419) **2.00** Beauty and the Beast (2264877) **3.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (1599525)
3.30 One of Our Own (1975) FILM with George Peppard, William Daniels and Louise Sorel. A doctor has to cope with saving the life of a colleague and dealing with his son's mysterious paralysis. Directed by Richard Sarafian (5996032)
5.30 Exclusive (4726070)
6.00 100 Per Cent (4723983)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (4714235)
7.00 5 News (T) (1581506)
7.30 Flight to Freedom A bird refuge in South Dakota (T) (4710419)
8.00 Vanessa's Day With... David Sullivan Chairman of Birmingham City (1590254)



Holland, Norton, Thorne (8.30pm)

8.30 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment with Dominic Holland, Graham Norton and Paul Thorne (1579761)
9.00 The Rescue of Jessica McClure (1989) FILM with Patty Duke, Beau Bridges and Roxanna Zal. Drama about the attempt to save a young girl trapped in a well. Directed by Mel Damski (96734896)
10.50 La Femme Nikita Last in the series (1914780)
11.45 Ruby in Paradise (1993) FILM Romantic drama with Ashley Judd, Todd Field and Bentley Mitchum. Directed by Victor Nunez (99607186)
1.50 am Blue Suede Shoes (1980) FILM Cinematic celebration of rock 'n' roll with footage of Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran among others. Directed by Curtis Clark (4820587)
3.30 The Trouble with Eve (1960, b/w) FILM British farce with Robert Urquhart and Garry Marsh. Directed by Francis Searle (76028571)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7137216)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8139007)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

7.00am Street Sharks (72631) **7.30** Bump in the Night (2790099) **7.45** The Simpsons (79709) **8.15** Oprah (6594438) **9.00** Hotel (22709) **10.00** Another World (57322) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (77186) **12.00** Married With Children (54051) **12.30pm** M*A*S*H (90964) **1.00** Geraldo (95419) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (34983) **3.00** Jenny Jones (98892) **4.00** Oprah (17167) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (7032) **6.00** Walker's World (2693) **6.30** Married With Children (6273) **7.00** The Simpsons (8761) **7.30** Real TV (2457) **8.00** Highlander (29490) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (49254) **10.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (42341) **11.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (58051) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (49262) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (49823) **2.00** Long Play (4601858)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888 Each film costs £2.99 per viewing
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Metro (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **My Fellow Americans (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **That Thing You Do! (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Ransom (1996)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Kansas (1995) (47761) **7.30 Chuka (1967)** (13021186) **9.15 Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' Roll (1987)** (875544) **11.15 Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (1977)** (55780) **1.15pm Chuka (1967)** (44694070) **3.00 Heaven Can Wait (1978)** (32322) **5.00 Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger (1977)** (70613) **7.00 Last of the Dogmen (1995)** (54235) **9.05 The Cable Guy (1996)** (45192032) **11.15 Indecent Behaviour III (1995)** (789235) **12.55am The Innocent Sleep (1995)** (491465) **2.35 Stripper (1985)** (3979910) **4.05 Search for Justice (1996)** (929571)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Young Guns of Texas (1962) (9256506) **7.20 Jitterbugs (1943)** (4281867) **8.40 Don't Bother to Knock (1952)** (6576457) **10.00 King Richard and the Crusaders (1954)** (92322) **12.00 Jamboree (1957)** (81964) **1.30pm Great Day (1946)** (16896) **3.30 Jitterbugs (1943)** (3744896) **4.45 A-Haunting We Will Go (1942)** (1257525) **6.00 In the Line of Duty: Smoke Jumpers (1996)** (30728) **8.00 Deadly Pursuits (1996)** (58544) **10.00 Casino (1995)** (29022148) **12.55am Living in Oblivion (1995)** (408755) **2.30 On Seventh Avenue (1995)** (87465) **4.00 Student Affairs (1988)** (71910)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Rooster Cogburn (1975) (7300273) **6.00 Annie (1981)** (4997032) **8.00 Stripes (1981)** (4909877) **10.00 A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)** (8555631) **11.35 Scanners II: The New Order (1990)** (7777167) **1.20am Tremors (1990)** (2952007) **2.55 Fright Night (1985)** (1784007) **4.40 Close**

TNT

9.00pm Forbidden Planet (1956) (51858780) **11.00 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)** (57020235) **1.30am Betrayed (1954)** (65381129) **3.20 Children of the Damned (1964)** (30268262) **5.00 Close**

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (49493) **7.30** Wrestling (15186) **8.30** Sports Centre (95032) **9.00** Racing News (19612) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (54273) **10.00** Futbol Mundial (66506) **10.30** Ringside (62457) **11.30** Golf: South African Open — Live (659790) **2.30pm** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (6896) **3.00** NBA: Utah v Chicago (94186) **5.00** Trans World Sport (4954) **6.00** Sports Centre (33790) **7.00** Golf (898148) **10.00** Sports Centre (82983) **11.00** Rugby Union Special (14631) **12.00** NHL: Powerweek (59804) **1.00am** Wrestling (65397) **3.00** Rugby Union Special (52674) **4.00** Trans World Sport (86587) **5.00** Sports Centre (84571)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (1770148) **7.30** Sports Centre (1782983) **8.00** Racing News (8838525) **8.30** Tight Lines (8326070) **9.30** Golf: Buick Invitational (8455051) **11.30** Ice Hockey (4881709) **2.00pm** Ringside (5284438) **3.00** World Sport Special (8827070) **3.30** Spanish Primera Liga (5797167) **5.30** Five Nations Preview (8478902) **6.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (4790709) **7.00** Leyton Orient v Peterborough United — Live (1356693) **10.00** Golf: Buick Invitational (1314099) **12.00** Sports Centre (7525113) **1.00am** Holiday Festival On Ice (8217378) **2.00** Sports Centre (1367129) **3.00** NHL: Powerweek (3696543) **4.00** Golf: Buick Invitational (1907200)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Spanish Football (248492[illegible]) **2.00** Live Cricket: West Indies v England (51875186) **4.00** Second Innings (19248235) **4.30** Live Cricket: West Indies v England (38535051) **9.00** Rugby Union Special (51877815) **10.00** Wrestling (85531864) **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Olympic Magazine (19186) **8.00** Ski-jumping (14877) **9.00** Winter X-Games (64709) **10.00** Skiing (64457) **11.30** Freestyle Skiing (69544) **12.00** Freeride Magazine (24544) **12.30pm** Luge (50457) **1.00** Tennis: Croatian Indoor Open — Live (4450896) **5.00** Olympic Heroes (23525) **6.30** Winter X-Games (62148) **7.30** Art on Ice (91148) **9.30** Olympic Special (18490) **10.30** Olympic Heroes (89693) **12.00** Jump The Bust (25533) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am I Didn't Know You Cared (2335526) **7.35** Neighbours (9850273) **8.00** Crossroads (8502099) **8.25** EastEnders (1988983) **9.00** The Bill (2703506) **9.30** Howards' Way (1985849) **10.00** Home to Roost (3318235) **10.30** The Sullivans (2792490) **11.00** Boon (2468070) **12.00** Crossroads (87675896) **12.25pm** Neighbours (87678983) **12.55** EastEnders (6841896) **1.30** Sykes (4876921) **2.10** Keeping Up Appearances (2464761) **2.45** Stay Lucky (1045235) **3.45** The Bill (1829815) **4.15** Juliet Bravo (8829231) **5.20** EastEnders (3390490) **5.55** Big Break (8191326) **6.30** The Bill (17486254) **7.40** Open All Hours (5171896) **8.20** 2point4 Children (1481612) **9.00** Common as Muck (41051032) **10.05** Comic Strip (8536099) **10.50** Alas Smith & Jones (1111438) **11.30** Colin's Sandwich (5181780) **12.05am** Chelmsford 123 (6978736) **12.40 FILM: Blue Steel (1934)** (6730378) **1.40** Equalizer (7635259) **2.30** Shopping

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (5592781) **7.00** El Model (5709032) **7.30** Coronation St (5722167) **8.00** Blind Date (1049802) **9.00** Within These Walls (3920772) **10.00** Sandbaggers (5711051) **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (5731815) **12.00** Coronation St (7535983) **12.30pm** Families (8537341) **1.00** Watching (5735631) **1.30** Please Sir! (8536612) **2.00** Poirot (5269896) **3.00** London's Burning (8305709) **4.00** Hawaii Five-O (8317544) **5.00** The Professionals (6116070) **6.00** Families (7768612) **6.30** Coronation St (7757964) **7.00** Poirot (2405877) **8.00** London's Burning (2414525) **9.00** Coronation St (8313728) **9.30** Comedians (8524877) **10.00** Fitz (2404149)



Jim Carey and Matthew Broderick star (Sky Movies Screen 1, 9.05pm)

CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)

5.00pm Gridlock (13745506) **5.30** Hey Dad II (19266631) **6.00** Blockbusters (19263544) **6.30** A Country Practice (19254896) **7.00** My Two Wives (13758070) **7.30** Duty Free (19243780) **8.00** Blue Heelers (51862983) **9.00** Love Hurts (51859419) **10.00** The Good Sex Guide (94470952) **10.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (52470772) **11.00** St Elsewhere (43243761) **12.00** Fast Forward (89726026) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (55519591) **1.00** Justice (89722910) **2.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Tale-spin **7.00** Mighty Ducks **7.30** Gargoyles **8.00** Ter Avery **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Sesame St **10.00** Winnie the Pooh **10.15** Small Stones **10.20** Rosie and Jim **10.35** Sing Me a Story **11.00** Microscopic Milton **11.05** Tots TV **11.25** It's Fun to Learn **11.40** Big Garage **11.55** Alphabet Castle **12.15pm** Amazing Animals **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame St **2.00** Jungle Cubs **2.30** Chip 'N' Dale Rescue Rangers **3.00** Timon and Pumbaa **3.30** Recess **3.45** Gargoyles **4.15** Recess **4.30** Brand Spanking New Doug **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** Boy Meets World **6.30** Home Improvement **7.00 FILM: Tidal Wave, No Escape** **8.30** Dinosaurs **9.00** Touched by an Angel **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Zeo **6.25** Crazy Crow **6.30** Power Rangers Zeo **7.00** Casper **7.30** Mortal Kombat **8.00** Goosebumps **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Pinocchio **10.25** Crazy Crow **10.30** Peter Pan **10.55** Why Why Family **11.00** Oliver Twist **11.25** Dodo **11.30** Huckleberry Finn **11.55** Why Why Family **12.00** Gullivers Travels **12.25pm** Dodo **12.30** X Men **1.00** Spiderman **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.25** Adventures of Dodo **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** Goosebumps **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** The Tick **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Romuald the Reindeer **7.00** Sprou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **9.00** Earthworm Jim **9.30** Beverly Hills Teens **10.00** Oscar's Orchestra **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Sprou **12.30pm** Beverly Hill Teens **1.00** Batman **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Gigantor **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Batman **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am to 9.00pm**, seven days a week

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula **6.30** Ren and Stimpy **7.00** Angry Beavers **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blues Clues **1.00** Clangers **1.30** Muppet Babies **2.00** Fraggle Rock **2.30** Alvin **3.00** Jumanji **3.30** Doug **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **5.00** Rugrats **5.30** Sister Sister **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Sweat **1.00** Echo Point **1.30** Heartbreak High **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** Teenage Urban Adventurers **3.15** On the Make **3.30** Heartbreak High **4.00** Hollyoaks **4.30** Saved by the Bell **5.00** USA High **5.30** Sweat **6.00** Echo Point **6.30** Blast **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hollyoaks **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Fifteen-to-One **5.50** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.05** Blockbusters **7.30** Give Us a Clue **8.00** All Clued Up **8.30** Whittle **9.15** Sale of the Century **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** 3-2-1 **12.30am** Moonlighting **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** Zorro **3.00** The Father Dowling Mysteries **4.00** Mighty Jungle **4.30** Zorro **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (8406815) **9.00** Tour of Duty (8486051) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (2719167) **10.30** The Basement (2729815) **11.00 FILM: Big Zapper (1974)** (8823186) **1.00am** Beverly Hills Bordello (7103587) **1.30 FILM: The Class of Nuke'em High Part III (1991)** (5704552) **3.30** The Basement (6366378) **4.00** Beverly Hills Bordello (6370571) **4.30** Red Shoe Diaries (7011552) **5.00** The A-Team (9880666)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (3235) **7.30** Roseanne (9371) **8.00** Kenny Everett (2983) **8.30** Caroline in the City (1490) **9.00** Cheers (51525) **9.30** Ellen (43167) **10.00** Police Squad (67649) **10.30** Alexei Sayle's Stuff (14167) **11.00** Tibs & Fibs (56070) **11.30** Grace Under Fire (53032) **12.00** Ellen (38007) **12.30am** Nurses (96587) **1.00** Cheers (30113) **1.30** Roseanne (52823) **2.00** Caroline in the City (72213) **2.30** Tibs & Fibs (10910) **3.00** Police Squad (27649) **3.30** Kenny Everett (71002)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (7967544) **8.30** Deepwater Black (7946051) **9.00** The Cape (4301815) **10.00 FILM: Mark of the Devil (1984)** (7099457) **11.30** Making of The Cape (1119709) **12.00** Sightings (5097113) **1.00am** Twilight Zone (7981113) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3785281) **2.00** Dark Shadows (8244465) **2.30** New Hitchcock (8256300) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7105533)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** Great Gardening Plot **10.30** New Yankee Workshop **11.00** Go Fishing **11.30** Homelime **12.00** The Road Show **12.30pm** All New This Old House **1.00** Yan Can Cook **1.30** The Furniture Guys **2.00** Home Again **2.30** The House **3.00** Cookabout **3.30** This Old House **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt (3090709) **4.30** Air Ambulance (3089693) **5.00** Flightline (4693419) **5.30** Treasure Hunters (3003273) **6.00** Lion's Share (4210916) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4806983) **7.30** Turning Points (3090322) **8.00** Jurassica (8479761) **9.00** Shops and Robbers (8499525) **10.00** 21st-Century Jet (8492612) **11.00** Mysterious World (3879032) **11.30** Mysterious World (3305761) **12.00** Wings Over the World (5716397) **1.00am** Turning Points (7003533) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (8710668)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Wild Horizons (9453896) **7.30** Badnesters of Thailand (4891709) **8.00** African Wildlife (5253411) **9.00** The Urban Gorilla (5158367) **10.00** Beauty and the Beast (2908344) **11.00** Lord of the Animals (5359728) **11.30** Bear Attack (3711525) **12.00** Hunt for the Giant Blue Fin (1894397)

TRAVEL (CABLE)

12.00pm Travel Live **1.00** Amazing Races **1.30** No Truckin' Holiday **2.00** Pathfinders **2.30** Gatherings And Celebrations **3.00** Innocent Abroad **3.30** Railway Adventures Across Europe **4.00** Thousand Faces Of Indonesia **4.30** Written In Stone **5.00** Vast And Wild **5.30** Reel World **6.00** The Flavours Of France **6.30** On The Horizon **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** No Truckin' Holiday **8.30** Flying Sofa **9.00** Dominika's Planet **10.00** Gatherings And Celebrations **10.30** On Tour **11.00** Travel Live **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Mittel Europa (1394235) **5.00** The Gambinos: First Family of Crime (8827977) **7.00** Biography: Pretty Boy Floyd (9449032)

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Grape Expectations **10.30** What's Cooking? **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Grow Your Greens **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Country Cooking **2.00** Surprise Chefs **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Winter Nosh **3.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **4.00** Ideal Home Cooks **4.30** Planet Nosh **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Living Style **9.20** Hart to Hart **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.55** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **12.25pm** Jimmy's **1.00** Cheap Chic **1.30** Tempest **2.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **3.00** Live at Three **4.10** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Cheap Chic **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Side Effects **9.00 FILM: Relative Fear** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.30am Tumhare Sahare **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** World **8.00** Business **8.30** Aahaa **9.00** Dashi **10.00** Ameena **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Dareer **12.00 FILM 3.00pm** Andaz **4.00** Hum Paanch **4.30** Amakshan **5.00** Zone **6.00** Banegi Apni Baat **6.30** Lehron **7.00** Top 10 **7.30** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **8.00** News **8.30** Parampara **9.00 FILM**



RACING 51
Aspell suffers painful return to action at Towcester

SPORT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6 1998

FOOTBALL 54
Sutton defends striking decision on England career



West Indies wrest control of second Test with devastating three-wicket burst

England slide back into familiar trap

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PORT OF SPAIN

WITH the traumas of Kingston fresh in the mind, it required an act of self-assurance to bat first on the suspiciously green surface produced at Queen's Park here yesterday. Michael Atherton did not hesitate and had little cause to regret his judgment until England's scrap for control of this second Test match suffered heavy casualties either side of tea.

From 87 for one in mid-afternoon, a good position in demanding conditions, England declined to 126 for six. Alec Stewart's dismissal, for a tenacious 50, was the prelude to trouble as John Crawley fell to Curtly Ambrose and, importantly, Graham Thorpe to the inoffensive off spin of Carl Hooper. Adam Hollioake was controversially run out and Jack Russell dismissed without scoring as the England collapse accelerated.

The day that had effectively become the first of the series, a week later than scheduled, might so easily have followed a familiar Caribbean script. English batting merely subservient to West Indian fast bowling. This, however, is a defiant England side, eager to shed the punchbag image they have suffered so long. For much of the day, they looked likely to succeed.

Survival was the priority, for though the pitch had little pace it offered movement off the seam and occasionally eccentric bounce. Atherton's strategy demanded damage limitation in the first two sessions and assumed that batting would become more perilous as the pitch deteriorated during the match.

It was not a route that could be driven without risk and there were moments during the early hours that may increasingly haunt West Indies. Three catches were missed, but if Stewart will make few more blemished half-centuries he will make still fewer of greater value.

Locally, this was heralded as Brian Lara's match, an occasion when, in his fiftieth Test match, Trinidad's most revered personality would impose himself upon the captaincy and instantly restore the primacy of West Indian cricket.

Reality proved more elusive than sentiment. In a ground perhaps one-third full, a lukewarm response to his own calls for support, Lara lost the toss, dropped a catch and endured mounting frustration in the face of stoical English resilience.

The toss was to some degree irrelevant, for Lara was intent on bowling first, but Atherton's decision was a statement of confidence, one from which previous England sides in similar circumstances might have shrunk. This was not a pitch to dread, but it was sufficiently grassed to make bowling first a convenient option.

England maintained their faith. They included a spin bowler, Phil Tufnell, and pronounced the expectation that he would find turn later in the game. This was fighting talk.

England also remained loyal to the stated preference for a settled wicketkeeper in Jack Russell — also winning his fiftieth cap — and their best, but too often disturbed, opening pair of Atherton and Stewart.

West Indies have good cause to respect both men, a respect that can only have grown as they failed to part them for more than an hour. Only 26 runs were scored in Atherton's 66 minutes in the middle but this was secondary to the importance of preserving wickets on the ground where England's most recent Test innings was a humiliating 46 all out.

Curtly Ambrose, their destroyer on that day in 1994, yesterday opened from the opposite end, before switching after five overs in search of inspiration. He bowled with more discipline than devilment, quickly identifying the futility of firing the ball in short on such a slow pitch and adapting to a fuller length.

He must have been close to a leg-before decision in his second over when Stewart, yet to score, was caught right back on his stumps. Venkatraghavan, the umpire, can only have judged it would miss leg stump. Stewart fussed with his stance, withdrawing his left foot a few inches to leg to allow later adjustments.

After 10.1 overs, the extent of the ill-fated Kingston Test, England had scored 17, just as at Sabina Park, but this time there were no wickets lost and no sightings of the physiotherapist. The England balcony relaxed a little; upstairs, so too did the officers of the West Indies Board, for whom another controversial pitch would have been unendurable.

Nixon McLean finally had his first Test bowl, but it was in the second over of a new spell from Ambrose that England lost their first wicket. Atherton, propping forward with the bat, for once, fatally angled, deflected at comfortable height to Lara at first slip.

Before lunch, England could have lost Crawley in unfortunate circumstances. When Kenny Benjamin, speared a ball short and wide of leg stump, Crawley connected with a faint edge and David Williams had the ball in his glove before spilling it as he landed. The next ball, short again, was carved for four.

Benjamin bowled more accurately after lunch. In his first over of the session, he beat Stewart and Crawley twice each and England, 70 for one at the interval, knew the battle had only just begun. In the next hour, they added only 17 runs and Stewart was put down twice. Lara missed the first chance, off Courtney Walsh, with Stewart on 40 but he might have taken the second, five overs and three runs later, if Hooper had not flapped across him from second slip.

Benjamin, the suffering bowler on this occasion, did not have to wait long for atonement, Stewart completing 50 in 171 minutes but being caught on his crease by the next ball, unarguably leg-before.

Crawley had negotiated 100 balls for 17 when Ambrose's control induced an edge to third slip, but the most grievous blow was still to come. Hooper, offered the ritual of the last over before tea, needed only one ball to remove Thorpe, caught behind as he cut. It was an error that fundamentally altered the look of the match.



Stewart displays nimble footwork as he pulls a short ball to the boundary for four during his dogged innings of 50. Photograph: Rebecca Naden

SCOREBOARD FROM PORT OF SPAIN

England won toss

ENGLAND: First innings

*M A Atherton c Lara b Ambrose	11
A J Stewart lbw b Benjamin	50
J P Crawley c S C Williams b Ambrose	17
N Hussain not out	22
G P Thorpe c D Williams b Hooper	8
A J Hollioake run out	2
R C Russell c S C Williams b McLean	0
A R Caddick not out	0
Extras	16
Total (6 wkts, 61.5 overs)	126

D W Headley, A R C Fraser and P C R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-26 (Stewart 11), 2-67 (Crawley 14), 3-105 (Hussain 12), 4-114 (Hussain 13), 5-124 (Hollioake), 6-126 (Russell)

BOWLING (figures at tea): Walsh 15-7-25-0 (nb 1, 3 fours; 6-2-13-0, 9-5-12-0), Ambrose 12-7-14-2 (nb 2; 1 four; 5-3-4-0, 3-1-3-1, 4-3-7-1); McLean 11-3-22-0 (nb 3, 2 fours, 6-2-13-0, 2-0-5-0, 3-1-4-0); Benjamin 14-3-43-1 (nb 1; 5 fours; 3-0-13-0, 11-3-30-1), Hooper 1.1-1-0-1 (1-1-0-0, 0.1-0-0-1)

SCORING NOTES (First day) — Lunch: 70-1 (27 overs, 119min; Stewart 39, Crawley 3), Tea: 114-4 (53.1 overs, 238min; Hussain 13)

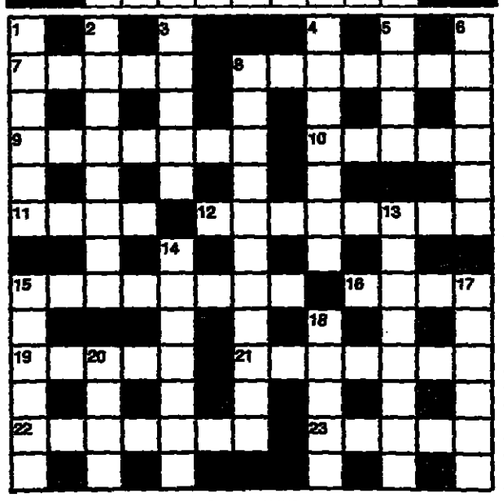
WEST INDIES: S L Campbell, S C Williams, *B C Lara, S Chanderpaul, C L Hooper, J C Adams, †D Williams, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin, N A M McLean and C A Walsh

Umpires: S A Bucknor and S Venkataraghavan (India)

Match referee: B N Jarman (Australia)

Compiled by Bill Frindall

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1322

ACROSS
7 An eccentric starting handle (5)
8 Fish; a few tie about (7)
9 Outstanding performance (7)
10 Bird: Irish dean, satirist (5)
11 Assistance (4)
12 Pocket cutter (8)
15 Catastrophe (8)
16 Mark; place; observe (4)
19 Shaver (5)
21 Ralph Waldo —, US poet (7)
22 Seek, request earnestly (7)
23 Uttered; part of wheel (5)

DOWN
1 Frustrate; sort of egg, fir, mist (6)
2 Rod-shaped pathogen (8)
3 Do (task) carelessly fast (5)
4 Jap. ivory toggle (7)
5 Flightless bird; a fruit (4)
6 Insect; Stalky's friend (Kipling) (6)
8 Success in task; an escutcheon (11)
13 False person; 9 and 15 ac. for Kipling (8)
14 Flightless bird; one refusing to face facts (7)
15 Compulsion (6)
17 Offer; sore (6)
18 — Owens, James; David's father (5)
20 Emile —, wrote J'accuse (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1321

ACROSS: 1 Voracity 5 Stag 9 Cluster 10 On air 11 Chop 12 Fretful 14 Disown 16 Précis 19 Cold War 21 Chap 24 Thank 25 Puccini 26 Drag 27 Reveille

DOWN: 1 Vice 2 Rough 3 Cat's-paw 4 Thrift 6 Traffic 7 Gormless 8 Yoke 13 Educated 15 Sultana 17 Recycle 18 Triple 20 Woke 22 Ariel 23 Dice

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Woodward plays waiting game

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

IT IS almost as though France and England have changed identities over the past few weeks: the French, with whom we associate the beautiful game, are talking of defence while they expect the traditionally conservative English to attack à l'excès. "Last year, I knew how England would play," Pierre Villepreux, the assistant France coach, said. "This year, I cannot say that and it is a big problem."

A year ago, France's self-confidence carried them to success at Twickenham and a grand slam in the Five Nations Championship. Now they seek the same confidence from a new team in a new arena, the Stade de France, from where the managing consortium yesterday issued further assurances that the match was in no danger from the weather.

Half the playing surface had thawed out by yesterday, encouraged by milder temperatures, and the other half will be playable today. The ground staff are confident that the covers will be taken off to allow England to have their first look at the stadium this morning. France following suit in the afternoon. The forecast for tomorrow is for rain and milder temperatures.

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT



Dallaglio, the England captain, gets his point across during training at Buc, near Versailles, yesterday

Yesterday, England took themselves to Buc, near their Versailles headquarters, and found their replacements finalised by injury: Tim Rodber has damaged a hamstring, so Tony Diprose, of Saracens, will provide the back-row cover, while Matt Dawson, Rodber's Northampton team-mate, has not recovered from a bruised shoulder.

If a scrum half replacement is required, Austin Healey will move from the wing, and, if he so chooses, Clive Woodward, the England coach, can field a full replacement front row since Phil Vickery, the Gloucester prop, is confirmed on the bench with Graham Rowntree and Dorian West.

Christian Califano, the Toulouse prop, has recovered from a bruised thigh and will pack down in the France front row alongside his new captain, Raphael Ibañez. The hooker has made only two full appearances for his country, both against Romania last year. His other four caps have come as a replacement, the first in March 1996 when he was an emergency back-row forward during the closing moments of the 16-15 defeat by Wales in Cardiff.

Ibañez, as his name suggests, is of Spanish stock: his grandfather, José, fled the country during the Spanish civil war of the late 1930s and the family took root on the other side of the Pyrenees in Dax. As a youngster, Ibañez played basketball, despite his lack of inches, and captained the school team before taking up rugby eight years ago.

He began life as a back-row forward before graduating to the front row; he admits that his lack of height and weight — he is 5ft 10in and just 15st — helped to create a "combative character" but, more to the point, one who analysed sport and thought deeply about it.

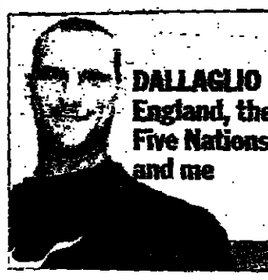
Such qualities made Ibañez, 24, captain of the France youth team that won the student World Cup in South Africa in 1996, of France A and of Dax, his club, where he plays alongside his brother-in-law, the talented but temperamental Richard Dourthe, who plays at full back in the A international in Tours tonight.

From the tranquillity of the Pyrennean streams, where he loves to fish, to the clamour of the Stade de France tomorrow, where England await. "All that matters is beating England," Ibañez said. "We have got to start restoring confidence and the best way is by winning Test matches. Last year's Five Nations was a great success but, generally speaking, our results were bad. There are many disappointing memories which must be erased."

Catt's vision, page 53

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